

# MINNESOTA HISTORY

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## Folklore and Minnesota History

*Stith Thompson*

THE FOLK ARTS CONFERENCE held in September, 1944, at the University of Minnesota was an event of significance not only for the study of folk arts and other aspects of folklore, but also for an increased appreciation of the historic resources of Minnesota and the whole of the Old Northwest.<sup>1</sup> The plans there discussed with so much enthusiasm may never be completely realized, but it was good to have the plans. Before the conference many people were aware of one aspect or another of the problems to be discussed, but it was only in the conference itself that the ideas were developed. From the impact of varying points of view there emerged a much clearer concept of the term "folklore" and a much more definite idea as to what should be done about it.

Even though folklore as a recognized study is this year celebrating its hundredth anniversary, it is still necessary for the practitioners of this mystery to keep explaining themselves. At times, folklore has become a fad and has attracted to itself a large dilettante following, usually because of the "quaintness" of old customs and the simplicity or lack of sophistication of the tales or songs of the forefathers or of belated communities today. The study has also drawn to it somewhat more than its share of eccentrics and "nuts." But in spite of the evil name that these well-meaning but ineffective folk have acquired in serious academic circles, there has been throughout the whole century of its history a considerable group of scholars whose handling of folklore has been as intelligent, as well-disciplined, and

<sup>1</sup> For a brief report on the conference, see *ante*, 25:397. The author of the present article participated in the program. *Ed.*

as definitely directed as the investigations of the best of their fellows in adjacent scholarly fields.

As conceived by the leading folklorists of Europe and America, the subject is by no means simple. It occupies an intermediate place between other well-established subjects, and for that very reason has opened up many new problems for the scholars of today and for the future. Its affiliations are threefold — with literature, with ethnology, and with history. The student of the Homeric question is at once a literary historian and a folklorist. He deals with the songs of the people, with the compositions of a great artist, and with manuscripts and literary redactions. Or he may seek to follow Cinderella or Snow White or Paul Bunyan from an original source, through a complicated oral history subjected to disturbing literary influences. Some folklorists, on the other hand, are essentially ethnologists. In folklore they see survivals of primitive customs, or they are interested in traditional social organizations, games, amusements, cookery, and dances. And they make large accumulations for museums of folk culture.

Not only these two points of view, but also that of the historian, must continually be kept in mind if one's approach to folklore is not to be too narrow. Furthermore, the student must always remember that many worthy people whose interest he rightly covets have an approach to folklore quite other than his own. Such people are content to let the scholar investigate the actual traditions of the folk, but for them the chief end is the enjoyment of the activity itself — singing songs, taking part in folk games and dances, and listening to old tales. It is from such persons that some of the most valuable collecting in the past has come. Still another group, interested in its own way in folklore, is viewed much less sympathetically by the serious scholar. For members of this group muddle the waters in which the scholar is fishing. These persons continually inject foreign traditions into places where they do not belong. Thus we have all kinds of European folk dances taught in our colleges, and mountain songs adapted to a radio audience. Less disturbing, because more authentic, is the revival of obsolete traditions. Frequently where the

folksongs or dances of a European group have been forgotten or dropped, they are deliberately revived by an enthusiast.

All these points of view were evident at the Folk Arts Conference. Proponents of all of them must learn to live with one another and to see what is valuable in each approach. The conference, attended as it was by ethnologists and historians, as well as folklorists, approached the subject of folklore in a broad and tolerant spirit. For one thing, no attempt was made to limit the actual scope of the subject. While there may have been reservations in the minds of some listeners as to the pertinence of particular contributions, no objection was raised to their presentation and consideration. Some limits, of course, must be drawn. But when one realizes the host of manifestations assumed by the traditions of a people, he must be willing to consider all of them. There will be few not deserving of his study. Even the well-known forms of folklore have a considerable variety. There are, first of all, the folk arts, consisting of textiles and designs, of building types, of decorative woodwork, of implements, and other objects. It is of such materials that folk museums are largely composed. Next there are the customs and beliefs, as applied to agriculture, domestic life, medicine, cookery, etc. Again, to many persons folklore means nothing more than folk dances and games. Finally, there is the oral tradition of a people, its songs, its proverbs, riddles, tales, and traditions.

The student of literature has a tendency to confine his use of the term "folklore" to the latter concept of oral tradition. But the broader use suggested above is of much more value to the historian, who is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that a true history of a people concerns much more than political or military events. When the historian approaches his task in the spirit of Herodotus, or of Gibbon in his analytical moods, he cannot clearly draw a line between history and such neighboring areas as economics, sociology, or ethnology. Of all excursions into neighboring precincts, those which the historian makes into folklore are among the most rewarding. The traditions of a people inevitably preserve long vanished elements in their culture. In fact, the primary interest in the early stages

of folklore research was the study of just such "survivals in culture." The early folklorists had especially in mind fossilized elements coming down from our primitive ancestors.

But even if our attention is confined to a much more recent stage in history, we are continually finding in folklore interesting clues to the changes in culture during recent centuries. The study of folk design may demonstrate a hybridization of foreign culture groups on our own soil, or may show the direct adaptation of a foreign culture to our own environment. The recording of an old English ballad in Minnesota and a comparative study of its versions over the whole continent may give original or corroborating evidence of a chain of traditions extending, it may be, from seventeenth-century England by way of Virginia and Kentucky, or by way of New England. A folk tale recorded in our Old Northwest from a Scandinavian family may take us immediately back to Norway or Sweden of 1870.

No state can more profitably use all these folklore resources for an understanding of its present and past than Minnesota. Within its borders it has a true epitome of the European continent. Above thirty organized groups keep green the memory of the lands from which they came. With more or less conscious effort, they preserve traditions and practice the arts brought by themselves or their fathers into the New World. The historian who would understand the roots of the culture of his state must know the people themselves and their ancient modes of thought and activity. All have deep roots and continue to bind our people to a land and age far away and long ago.

And there are also two groups with more definitely American connections. In a state like Minnesota recollections of the days when Indians roamed the plains are not yet extinct, and even today the aborigines are seen in many parts of the state. The historian has largely assigned the study of this native culture to the ethnologist and the folklorist, but he has an obligation to understand the modes of thought and the traditional patterns of this basic population. We must also remember that folklorists and ethnologists are few, and if the historian waits for them to act, much that is valuable will perish with the dying generation. Close and friendly co-operation between



historian and folklorist is especially desirable if this American Indian culture is to be understood and is to take its place in the larger life of the state and the nation.

In his interest in recent immigrant groups and in the old-age natives, neither folklorist nor historian can afford to forget the hardy race of older American pioneers who helped to open up the Minnesota country. They, too, brought memories with them. Specific recollections of New England or Pennsylvania faded out in the next generation, and the great epic movement of the settlement of the continent became generalized and blurred in the minds of the historian and of the people themselves. But the folklorist, if he works carefully and if he interprets his results intelligently, finds songs and tales, legends and anecdotes, old games and dances, cures and weather signs, and many an old-fashioned saying or turn of phrase which carries him far into the backward and abysm of time.

This great variety of tradition in a state like Minnesota is not something to give us alarm. It is not a sign of disunity. American life, national or local, pulls all groups together, so that there is no danger of undue weight being given to the past or to old loyalties. Rather does the variety of racial or group memories bring immeasurable relief to the uniformity of American culture as affected by the chain store, the cinema, and the radio.

One of the most interesting reports made at the Folk Arts Conference was that concerning local historical museums scattered throughout Minnesota. It was clear that those who have developed these museums have had a very broad concept of the field of history, certainly not far removed from the point of view we have been trying to suggest. Many parts of these museums effectively display the traditional culture of their regions. The chief emphasis in such museums is, as might be expected, the purely historical. Old implements or pieces of furniture are favored because they project us into the past. But this natural bias has not prevented many of the museums from gathering and displaying contemporary material.

The local historical museums are a good beginning to the collecting and utilization of the folklore resources of the state. But it was clear to anyone who attended the Folk Arts Conference that they

furnish only a beginning. Independently, or in friendly co-operation with organizations more definitely committed to folklore, the historian may well expand his interest and investigations concerning the traditional life of those he studies. He will find it of great value to consider not only material objects made and used by our ancestors, but all aspects of their intellectual and aesthetic lives. He will recognize that not only in primitive and pioneer groups, but even among more recent immigrants, life has not all been given to the making of a livelihood. Even under the hardest pioneer conditions there were outlets for emotions, for a sense of beauty, and for a joy in living. Aesthetic life may have been largely confined to emotional religion on Sundays. But even in the crudest of religious experiences, there was frequent opportunity for the singing of really noble hymns or listening to the incomparable cadences of psalm or gospel story.

In the workday week there were periods of refreshment—long winter days of enforced idleness, evenings about the fire, even occasional holidays and festivals. And though dependent largely on his own resources, the pioneer did not do badly. He had a wealth of old songs, and an increment of new ones, expressive of the wild life he lived; he told ancient tales which had come across the sea and newer traditions accumulated as his ancestors moved to their new homes. He may have danced old dances or, if religion forbade, may have disguised them as play-party songs. He exchanged wise sayings or ancient counsels about plowing or the sowing of seed. And in county fairs were seen the results of many a traditional pattern of embroidery or quilting and of many a recipe for food and drink handed down from old times.

Much of this teeming activity, traditional in pioneer and immigrant groups, has vanished. The historian can reconstruct some of it from books and newspapers, and from diaries and letters. Much more can still be found in the memories of men and women yet among us. It is the collecting of this still living tradition that is the primary task of the folklorist. Only when he has done his best to bring together what still remains can there be a really adequate record of the life of the community.

For a long time to come, as in the past, considerable dependence

must be placed upon the amateur collector of folklore. The historian has long had experience with the enthusiast for local history, and he will realize some of the limitations in the results produced by the untrained worker. As rapidly as possible our local folklorists must be given the training that is necessary if their records are to approach completeness and accuracy. Too often the amateur is interested in only one kind of item—tales, it may be, or songs, or superstitions. He will profit greatly by careful training which will make him aware of the wide scope of folklore and especially of what kinds of material he may well expect to recover in the area where he works. He should be able to place a reasonably accurate value on his materials and above all to know the relation of what he has gathered to the whole body of folklore, both in America and elsewhere. All this calls for academic preparation. Increasingly, American universities are realizing the need for such training, both on the undergraduate and the graduate levels. In almost a score of institutions introductory courses are given to stir up interest in folklore collecting and to give undergraduates some practice. As for the more specialized graduate training, there are at present not more than three or four possibilities for the student. It is in the latter direction especially that the large universities may be expected to be of greater service in the coming years.

One promising device for giving training on both levels, as well as for engendering enthusiasm for folklore collecting and study, is the folklore institute. Sometimes this has been a meeting for only a few days and sometimes it has consisted of an entire term of study. The former is illustrated by the annual Western Folklore Conference at Denver and the latter by the Folklore Institute of America, which has had one session and which expects to revive during the summer term of 1946. As time goes on and more people are interested in collecting, it will be possible to handle this training as a regular part of the university program, rather than by what are at best makeshift methods.

One special problem which the folklore collector encounters is shared by the field worker in ethnology. He must learn how to make such tactful approaches to his informants that they will speak to him

freely. No one can teach the folklorist this art better than a successful collector himself. Hence, whether in established university courses or in folklore institutes, one of the important services must be to bring collectors together so that they can exchange experiences and mutually widen their horizons. The beginner will learn many things that he must not do, and will be saved many false starts and some failures. He will learn how to record traditions without interrupting the natural flow of speech, and he will especially learn how valuable it is to make recordings with absolute faithfulness.

Even if the state affords adequate training and stimulus to its folklore collectors, it cannot merely turn them loose and expect to achieve the best results. The systematic gathering of the folklore resources of any state is a major undertaking. It has not even been attempted in America. But that is no reason why it should never be. Twenty years ago the vast folklore riches of Ireland remained almost untouched. But within the last two decades the efforts of a single man, aided by an intelligent interest and modest state support, have resulted in such a gathering of the vanishing traditions of Ireland as will take many a decade for folklorists, literary scholars, and historians to utilize. Any state which contemplates such a program must study the activities of the Irish Folklore Commission. From the central archive at Dublin the efforts of eight full-time collectors are supervised by means of letters of instruction and frequent visits by the director of the commission. By the use of phonographic recording and careful transcripts, the archive of the commission has now brought together well over a million pages of authentic folk tradition.

The United States is too large a unit to handle its folklore collecting on a national basis, as Ireland does. The ideal unit is a state. Here it may be assumed that a state university will give adequate training to folklorists, and that a state organization, either public or private, will house and administer an archive and supervise collecting. This is actually done, in peace times, in Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, as well as in Ireland. With a state possessing the diverse traditions found in Minnesota, it is not too much to expect that it will assume leadership in bringing the best

of the European methods to bear on the collecting and proper utilization of its folklore.

Whether such an activity comes as the development of the present vigorous interest in Minnesota history or whether it comes independently, it will be very significant for the state in several respects. Aside from the information and understanding which such material brings to the historian, the collecting of the folklore of the state is of great social importance. It gives a welcome recognition to all the ethnic strains in the population. It brings to each of them a justifiable pride in the people from whom they have come, and it helps each group to understand and value the other.

The essential of all folklore study is collecting and attempting to understand that which has been collected. This means university courses, subsidized collection, archives, publications, and perhaps museums. If one could combine the best features of the collecting program of Ireland, of the university courses of Sweden, of the great indoor and outdoor museums of Stockholm, of the activities of the Archive of American Folksong at Washington, of the gathering of folklore from recent immigrant groups in Detroit, and something of the group pride manifested in the Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh—if one could combine all these, there could never be a question as to the significance of folklore, not only for every member of a state, but also in a special measure for all serious students of its history.

## Livestock in Frontier Minnesota

Merrill E. Jarchow

ALTHOUGH THE PIONEER Minnesota farmer placed much faith in spring wheat as a cash staple, he by no means neglected the livestock industry. In fact domestic animals were introduced into the region before wheat was grown there. In the vicinity of missions, trading posts, and military forts the white man early carried on farming which included stock raising. Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike in 1806 wrote that at the post of the North West Company on Sandy Lake he saw horses procured from the Red River country and from the Indians. In the next year George Henry Monk reported of Fond du Lac: "Here are two Horses, a Cow, a Bull, and a few pigs." At Lac qui Parle by 1830 Joseph Renville was reported to have owned "sheep by the hundreds and cattle by the score." Two years later the Reverend William T. Boutwell visited the Sandy Lake post and saw there stables for thirty head of cattle, three or four horses, and fifteen swine.<sup>1</sup>

As time went on the number of heads of livestock gradually increased, although until nearly 1860 much of the livestock in the Northwest was imported from other sections for slaughter, dairy, and draught purposes.<sup>2</sup> There was little effort to improve breeds prior to the middle 1850's, and most farmers paid slight attention to their farm animals. In December, 1845, for example, William R. Brown made the following entries in his diary: "Tuesday 16 E. Brissette and I went out on the hills to look for his hogs which have been lost for several weeks. I found them on the hills Back of Harrison's Claim. Brissette & I followed them all day but could not get to them." On the following day Brown recorded that "Brissette

<sup>1</sup> Frank E. Balmer, "The Farmer and Minnesota History," *ante*, 7:206; Edward V. Robinson, *Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota*, 40 (University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 3—Minneapolis, 1915).

<sup>2</sup> *Minnesota Pioneer* (St. Paul), July 14, 1853; Mildred Hartsough, *The Development of the Twin Cities as a Metropolitan Market*, 66 (Minneapolis, 1925).

& I went out and built a pen over his hogs bed (we found where they slept) hoping at night we could slip up & shut the door at night & thus fasten them in so we made a pen & at night went down but only 3 of them were in we fastened those in intending to shoot the others & haul them home, next day his old Black sow had pigs this evening." Not until December 23 did Brown and a companion go "to haul Brissette's hogs home he had shut them all up but one little pig it ran away. we tied them & put them in the sled."<sup>3</sup>

From these extracts it is apparent that some farmers of the 1840's made little effort to house their hogs, and other livestock fared little better. Most farm animals were used for home consumption, though some meat might be sold at a fort or a village if one happened to be near enough to make such a sale profitable.

At the beginning of the decade of the 1840's, according to the sixth census, there were in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, which included Minnesota east of the Mississippi, 58 horses and mules, 434 cattle, 6 sheep, and 187 swine. These statistics probably are inaccurate and they give no clue, of course, to the number of animals in Minnesota proper. Ten years later the census included statistics for Minnesota Territory by counties. The livestock population had grown appreciably, though the validity of the figures is again open to doubt. Most of the increase was due to importation, as items in the first newspaper of the territory testify. On one occasion it noted that the "boiler deck of the Senator . . . was crowded with cattle and horses migrating to Minnesota"; on another it spoke of cattle and horses that were destined "to be let down, as it were in a sheet by the four corners, before St. Peters."<sup>4</sup>

Many head of cattle were driven overland along with the covered wagons of the settlers. One writer, F. D. Currier, however, stated that the majority of settlers in the 1850's reached their destination without a hooved or horned animal upon which to draw for sustenance. Most early settlers had to be content with buying a calf and waiting for it to grow. No attention was paid to breeds, and the

<sup>3</sup> Rodney C. Lochr, ed., *Minnesota Farmers' Diaries*, 49, 50, 52 (St. Paul, 1939).

<sup>4</sup> *Pioneer*, May 19, 26, 1849.

buyer had to be satisfied with "anything that walked on four legs, could grow horns, and would resemble a cow when grown up." In 1850 Minnesota's "livestock comprised chiefly horses and work oxen, though some milch cows were reported, especially in Washington and Pembina counties."<sup>5</sup>

The lack of home-produced beef and pork was reflected in price quotations, which were extremely changeable. In February, 1851, for example, beef and pork had advanced to ten cents a pound in St. Paul, partly because hogs from Dubuque, Prairie du Chien, and other places had not yet arrived. At the same time good butter was scarce, all kinds bringing twenty-five cents a pound. Less than a year later, in January, 1852, when there was a good supply of beef on hand in St. Paul, it sold for from five to seven cents a pound by the quarter, or six to eight cents by the piece. There was no fresh pork to speak of, only one wagonload having reached St. Paul during the previous few days. As a result pork brought from eight to ten cents a pound and hams, twelve and a half cents.<sup>6</sup>

In the early 1850's good cows could be purchased in Iowa, Illinois, or Wisconsin for about twenty-five dollars each, and the cost of taking one from Galena to St. Paul by steamboat was between three and four dollars. This, however, was too expensive for the average farmer, who generally was short of cash. Hence, importation of livestock and improved breeding methods were carried on for the most part by the wealthier men of the territory. They performed a valuable service for Minnesota—a service, by the way, which did not go unnoticed. In 1854, for example, this item appeared in the weekly *Pioneer*: "As yet but little has been done towards the improvement

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota Butter, Cheese and Dairy Stock Association, *Proceedings*, 1885, p. 27 (Red Wing, 1886); William G. Gresham, ed., *History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties*, 1:460 (Indianapolis, 1916); Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 41. In a master's thesis on "Public Opinion on Federal Land Policies in Minnesota, 1837-1862," p. 26, Ben R. Brainerd states that many new settlers in the prairie region engaged in stock raising in the middle 1850's, but that since few brought cattle with them, they had to buy from drovers who demanded cash. In 1855 at St. Peter, milch cows cost from \$35.00 to \$70.00; year-old heifers, from \$15.00 to \$25.00; work oxen, from \$130.00 to \$175.00 a yoke; and three-year-old steers, from \$70.00 to \$120.00. A copy of Brainerd's thesis, which was prepared at the University of Minnesota in 1935, is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>6</sup> *Pioneer*, February 6, 1851; January 1, 1852.



of stock in the Territory, and we are highly gratified to see that at this time, many are making exertions to bring in improved breeds. Col. Stevens of Minneapolis, last year got up a fine Durham Bull and a heifer of the same breed, from which the farmers in Hennepin County are now breeding very extensively, which will of course make a general improvement in that region, and Mr. William Fowler of Red Rock prairie has just brought up a beautiful Devonshire Bull, which he purchased in Geauga County, Ohio." The writer mentions two other Minnesotans who "are now below for the purpose of procuring an improved stock of horses," and he concludes with the remark that "They will, probably, bring on some good stock, and our present race of ponies will soon disappear from the land."<sup>7</sup> Perhaps such importations of stock brought the desired results. At least C. C. Andrews, commenting on a trip to Minnesota in 1856, when he noted the absence of mules, declared: "Minnesotians are supplied with uncommonly good horses. I do not remember to have seen a mean horse in the territory."<sup>8</sup>

In the spring of 1855 the press once more reported on the activities of stock importers. It was expected that beginning in May extensive droves would arrive. Even in April, fifty or sixty milch cows, work oxen, and beef cattle were on their way from northern Illinois, and another herd was coming from Iowa. By June 1, a large lot was expected from Missouri. Some uncertainty regarding sheep importation was expressed, but of live pork there was plenty, and it was believed that Ramsey County could almost supply its own demand for that article.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the importers already mentioned, notice should be given to Joseph Haskell, one of Minnesota's earliest farmers, who in 1851 brought the first Devons into the region and bred them successfully for some years thereafter. Joseph P. Miller also deserves recognition, since he and Colonel John H. Stevens in 1853 imported the first full-blooded Devon cow and bull into Hennepin County at a cost of \$2,000. Devons, however, did not prove popular and were

<sup>7</sup> *Pioneer*, July 15, 1852; weekly edition, May 4, 1854.

<sup>8</sup> C. C. Andrews, *Minnesota and Dacotah*, 158 (Washington, 1857).

<sup>9</sup> *Pioneer*, April 19, 1855.

rarely profitable in Minnesota. At the same time, in the early 1850's, Herefords, Anguses, and Galloways were practically unknown in the region.<sup>10</sup>

The breed of horses in greatest favor was the Morgan. At the Minnesota Territorial Agricultural Society's fair of 1855 the first premiums for stallions went to "Flying Morgan, 2," a full-blooded Morgan owned by Daniel Hopkins, and first on colts went to another Morgan owned by William Holcombe. There was not then a Percheron, a Belgian, or a Clydesdale in Minnesota. At the same fair the first premium for bulls went to a three-year-old Durham, and for sheep to a Leicester. The hogs exhibited evidently did not belong to any particular breed.<sup>11</sup>

In 1859, about the time when wheat was becoming commercially important in the state, the first shipment of cattle was made from Minnesota to the East. On November 10 Colonel Salathiel Olin of Rochester sent three carloads, comprising forty-five cattle in all, over the Milwaukee and La Crosse road directly to Boston. The cattle were purchased in the neighborhood of Rochester, and they averaged 1,700 pounds in weight.<sup>12</sup> The shipment was a welcome harbinger of the future to Minnesotans accustomed only to importing stock.

Shortly after Olin's venture, G. W. Piper of St. Peter took east a drove of Minnesota fattened cattle. He reported that they met with a ready sale in Buffalo and "That the speculation netted a handsome profit to those who embarked their means in it." The local market, however, did not always prove so attractive, for it was discovered by one owner of some fat cattle driven from Rice County to St. Paul that he could not find a purchaser among the city butchers, though he asked only four cents a pound on the hoof. He therefore resolved to drive the cattle to Superior.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Darwin S. Hall and Return I. Holcombe, *History of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society from Its Organization in 1854 to the Annual Meeting of 1910*, 16 (St. Paul, 1910); *St. Anthony Express*, May 27, 1853.

<sup>11</sup> Hall and Holcombe, *State Agricultural Society*, 31; V. P. Hedrick, *A History of Agriculture in the State of New York*, 358 (New York, 1933). Devon and Durham cattle were becoming numerous in Freeborn County, according to the *Minnesota Farmer and Gardener* (St. Paul), 1:72 (January, 1861).

<sup>12</sup> Henrietta M. Larson, *The Wheat Market and the Farmer in Minnesota, 1858-1900*, 17 (New York, 1926); *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat* (St. Paul), November 18, 1859.

<sup>13</sup> *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat*, April 27, June 1, 1860.

According to the census of 1850 there were only 80 sheep in all Minnesota Territory, of which 45 were in Ramsey County and 26 in Wabasha County. By 1860, however, there were 13,044 sheep in the state. Then came the Civil War with the accompanying demand for wool, and as a result the sheep population jumped to 97,241 in 1864 and 193,045 in 1866. Then the movement subsided, and there were only 135,450 sheep in the state in 1869. The end of the war and the general price decline caused this falling off in sheep production.<sup>14</sup>

Much ink was used by the papers of the territory and state in an attempt to interest farmers in sheep production. In 1853 one editor predicted that "Within the time necessary for a farmer to get an extensive sheep farm in complete operation, we will be in a condition to avail ourselves of any and all the markets, both in Europe and America." Several years later the *St. Peter Statesman* published an account of P. S. Carson's experience as a sheep raiser. "All honor," said the writer, "is due Mr. Carson for his efforts in establishing the success of wool growing in this section of Minnesota, as it promises to be one of the most profitable branches of agricultural industry in the State." A farmers' club organized by members of the state legislature became interested in the question of sheep raising and devoted many discussions to it. One member pointed out that a good sheep yielded four and a half pounds of wool a year. Wool could be sent to New York and Boston for two and a half cents a pound, including commissions. Since the average price of wool in 1860 was forty cents a pound, at least \$1.50 a year could be realized on each sheep. The speaker claimed that he had raised five hundred sheep himself, and he therefore knew from experience what he was talking about.<sup>15</sup>

Ample evidence of a craze for wool production can be found in the newspapers from 1860 to 1866. A flock of sheep from Vermont and another from New York were driven through Mantorville in one week in 1860. Richard Healy of New York and Russell Smith of Wisconsin let out sheep in flocks of five hundred to three farmers

<sup>14</sup> Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 62; J. A. Willard, *Blue Earth County: Its Advantages to Settlers*, 6 (Mankato, 1868).

<sup>15</sup> *Pioneer*, September 29, 1853; *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat*, July 14, 1859; February 3, 1860.

in Olmsted County in the fall of 1860. Half of the wool and half of the increase went to the owners, who claimed thirty to fifty per cent dividends in the first year. J. G. Getty, who lived south of Sauk Centre, spent the winter of 1860-61 in Illinois, where he planned to buy two thousand sheep to take back to his farm the following spring. By 1863 there were many different breeds of sheep in the state, and each had defenders who vigorously proclaimed its merits. Some of the breeds most frequently mentioned were Leicester, South-down, Sussex, Silesian, Saxon, and Merino. As late as September, 1866, forty thousand pounds of wool were at the railroad depot in St. Anthony ready to be shipped East—the largest amount exported from the state up to that time. A local newspaper commented on the year's shipment as follows: "Only half a dozen seasons since the entire wool clip of the State could not have filled a dozen burlaps. This year our exports of wool will exceed half a million pounds, and is almost doubling every season. It has become one of our most profitable branches of husbandry, or of any business, and numbers are embarking capital in it."<sup>10</sup>

But however impressive the state's expansion of sheep raising was, Minnesota lagged far behind other states in the Middle West, as the following table shows.

	POUNDS OF WOOL	
	1862	1865
Illinois .....	5,800,000	12,000,000
Wisconsin .....	2,200,000	5,000,000
Iowa .....	2,000,000	7,000,000
Minnesota .....	150,000	450,000

The proportion of sheep to other livestock in the state can be seen by looking at a table, based upon assessors' returns.

	1860	1863	1866	Per cent of increase
Horses	10,196	34,749	63,600	500
Cattle	40,928	194,736	210,921	400
Sheep	8,042	63,624	194,522	2,300
Hogs	21,317	87,857	95,472	350

<sup>10</sup> *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat*, June 8, August 31, October 12, 1860; July 17, 1863; *Weekly Pioneer*, September 7, 1866; *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:194 (July, 1861). Wool exports from St. Paul amounted to 3,000 pounds in 1861, to 36,105 pounds in 1862, to 114,698 pounds in 1863, and to 175,000 pounds in 1864.

The actual value of livestock in 1866 was about \$21,286,697, more than double that of wheat. Fillmore, Olmsted, Goodhue, Dakota, Hennepin, Blue Earth, and Carver were banner livestock counties in the middle 1860's.<sup>17</sup>

The price of medium-grade wool fluctuated greatly during the war, but it seldom if ever sank below a figure remunerative to the farmer. The price range for 1862 was from \$.40 to \$.65 a pound; for 1863, from \$.63 to \$.75; for 1864, from \$.70 to \$1.10; for 1865, from \$.45 to \$.90.<sup>18</sup> Despite high war prices, the sheepman's life was not always a bed of roses. Disease, wolves, and dogs were three of his worst enemies.

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society and individuals be-moaned the dog menace and repeatedly petitioned the legislature to pass a stringent dog law. Typical was a plea from a well-known sheep raiser, R. H. Bennett of Cottage Grove: "I am confident the time is not far distant when Minnesota will rank first among the *wool producing States . . . Provided, our intelligent Legislature will pass a law taxing all Dogs, and creating a revenue, sufficient to pay for the depredations of the canine race, the only efficient protection that we can have.*" An act levying a dog tax was approved on March 6, 1862, but it was not stringent enough to please the sheepmen. An act of March 6, 1873, made the owner of a dog who killed or wounded a sheep liable for the value of such sheep. Diseases among sheep, especially foot rot, were prevalent between 1864 and 1867. Later the flocks appear to have been generally healthy.<sup>19</sup>

With the decline in the production of sheep after 1866, there was a noticeable decrease in public interest. In 1870 there were 132,343 sheep in Minnesota, fewer than the number given in the state re-

<sup>17</sup> *Weekly Pioneer*, May 18, 1866; January 25, 1867. The figures for livestock are undoubtedly far too low. The 1860 census reported 16,879 horses, 106,009 cattle, 384 mules, 12,595 sheep, and 104,479 hogs.

<sup>18</sup> *Weekly Pioneer*, May 18, 1866; *Farmer and Gardener*, 2:15 (January, 1862). Andrew Peterson, a farmer near Shakopee, sold three pounds of wool at eighty cents a pound, according to his diary for July 2, 1864. This diary, which is written in Swedish, is preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society. An English translation is available.

<sup>19</sup> *Farmer and Gardener*, 2:11, 75 (January, March, 1862); *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat*, February 5, 1864; *Farmers' Union* (Minneapolis), March 29, 1873; Minnesota, *General Laws*, 1873, p. 140. In his diary for April 1, 1864, Peterson recorded that he collected \$5.50 for a sheep killed by a dog.

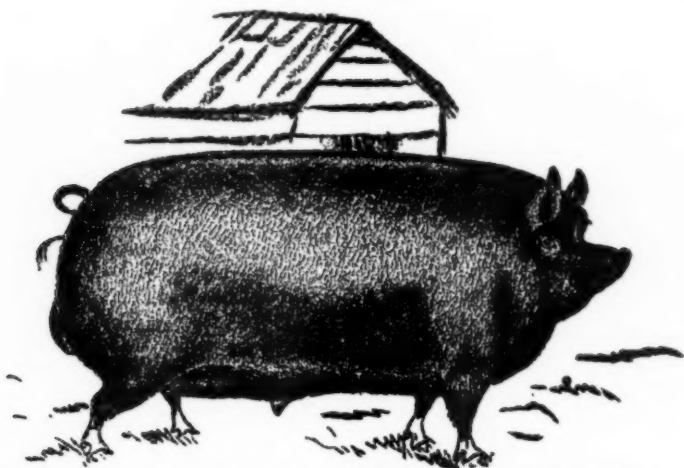
turns of 1869; and in 1880 there were 267,598, exclusive of spring lambs. The increase of sheep during the 1870's was relatively smaller than that of any other class of livestock except work oxen. It would seem that the postwar years dealt the industry a blow from which it did not easily recover. No organization of farmers to stimulate sheep and wool production appeared until 1879, when the Minnesota State Wool Growers' Association was formed.<sup>20</sup>

According to the census of 1850, there were 734 swine in the territory, 590 of which were found in Wabasha and Washington counties. By 1860 the total number had increased to 101,371 and by 1870, to 148,473. This was a percentage increase for the 1860's of 46.5, a smaller relative gain than was found in any other class of livestock on the farms in the state, even including work oxen. There were 82.7 swine per hundred of the rural population in 1860 and 45.3 in 1870. During the 1870's there was an increase in the hog population of 156.9 per cent to a total of 381,415 in 1880, or 70.2 swine for each hundred of the country population.<sup>21</sup>

Important factors in retarding swine production during the 1860's were the state's limited corn crop and the high price of grain. In this connection Thomas Lamb, whose dealings in pork were the most extensive in St. Paul, said that \$300,000 worth of pork reached the city from Iowa during the winter of 1867-68. Slaughtered hogs valued at \$500,000 probably were imported by the state during the same period. The *Minnesota Monthly* deplored this condition, and pointed out that since Canadian farmers fattened hogs with peas, Minnesota farmers could do likewise. George Biscoe gave evidence of the scarcity of pigs when he wrote: "Mr. Van Slyke offered to give me a young pig if I would come and get it. Young pigs are

<sup>20</sup> *Farmers' Union*, August 1868; April, 1869; July 18, 1874; *Minnesota Monthly* (St. Paul), 1:247, 324 (July, September, 1869); *Minnesota Farmer* (St. Paul), 2:184, 3:128 (March, 1879; February, 1880); United States Commissioner of Agriculture, *Report*, 1865, p. 479-484; *Statistics of Minnesota for 1876*, 139 (Commissioner of Statistics, *Eighth Annual Report*—St. Paul, 1877); Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 62, 105. For information on a slightly later period, see D. E. Salmon, *Special Report on the History and Present Condition of the Sheep Industry of the United States* (52 Congress, 2 session, *House Miscellaneous Documents*, no. 105—serial 3124).

<sup>21</sup> Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 103, 105, 244.



Berkshire Boar "GEN. HANCOCK," Property of DeGraff & Hopkins, Janesville, Minnesota.

[From the *Minnesota Farmer*, vol. 1, no. 6, p. 9 (February, 1878).]

very scarce and bringing a high price for Minn., so it is worth going for."<sup>22</sup>

Prior to 1860 there seems to have been little commercial pork raising in the state. According to the *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat* of March 29, 1861, "Very little was done in this city in pork packing until the winter of 1859-60—the time when we were relieved from the necessity of dependence on importations from below. In that winter a packing house was established by Messrs. Strong and Miller, which was quite successful. Last winter other firms commenced the business, and the results go to show that hereafter this will become a prominent source of occupation and profit."

E. and H. Y. Bell, St. Paul dealers, sent pork to Chicago during the winter of 1860-61 and made a fair profit on it. The price for hauling the pork to La Crosse was a dollar a hundredweight. Thence

<sup>22</sup> *Minnesota Monthly*, 1:31 (January, 1869). See also a letter written by George Biscoe from Cottage Grove, July 24, 1863, in the Biscoe Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

it was sent on to Chicago by rail. Not only St. Paul, but Northfield, St. Peter, Winona, and Stillwater figured in this early trade.<sup>23</sup>

Hogs were seldom sold alive. When freezing weather arrived the farmers had a hog-killing bee, with neighbors assisting one another, as they did at threshing time. As soon as the pork was frozen, it was taken to town, where on many a cold day the street would be lined with loads of dressed hogs. Buyers took the meat to the depot, where it was weighed and marked. When business was especially good, the railroads sometimes ran short of cars. Then if a thaw set in, the meat stored in the depot freight room was likely to turn green, and it would have to be sent to a soap factory. About 1870, men were paid from twenty-five to thirty-five cents an hour to load cars with frozen pork. Farmers generally rendered the entrails only for lard, as the leaf lard had to go with the hogs when they were sold.<sup>24</sup>

Prior to 1860 little if any attention was paid to any particular breed of swine. At the state fair of that year, however, a Chester White barrow attracted wide notice, and the breed took prizes at many other state fairs in 1860. It originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania, as the result of a very careful breeding of the common white hog for many years. It became larger than the popular little Suffolk, which it resembled, Chester Whites often weighing from five hundred to eight hundred pounds in the early 1860's. By 1861 Chester Whites were appearing on Minnesota farms, and many of the good hogs that went to market during the winter of 1860-61, eliciting "much praise," were of that breed.<sup>25</sup>

As time went on more interest was taken in improved breeds of swine. The lead there, as in other branches of the industry, was taken by wealthy farmers, and not by average farmers. Charles

<sup>23</sup> *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:120 (February, 1861); *Hastings Independent*, April 12, 1860; *Belle Plaine Enquirer*, February 9, 1861; *St. Cloud Democrat*, April 4, 1861; *Stillwater Messenger*, October 6, 1863.

<sup>24</sup> J. E. Townsend, "Store Business . . . in Belle Plaine 63 Years Ago," in *Belle Plaine Herald*, September 7, 1933. See also a letter to Mrs. Nancy Aiton from her brother Andrew, December 4, 1851, in the Aiton Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>25</sup> *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:264 (September, 1861); Hedrick, *Agriculture in the State of New York*, 375.



Reeve and William S. King of Minneapolis, Brockway Brothers of Eyota, and Charles de Graff of Janesville were among the leading swine raisers. As a result of the work of Brockway Brothers and others, the Olmsted County auditor was able to report that he believed the grade of swine in the county was improved fifty per cent between 1869 and 1871. These men were particularly interested in Essex and Berkshire swine. Reeve, in a letter dated February 2, 1877, said that he raised Berkshires, some of which he obtained from England. Although he raised 140 pigs in 1874, for two years he had been unable to fill all the orders that reached him. He received \$25.00 a pair for hogs four months old, \$15.00 for single pigs, and as high as \$50.00 each for choice sows in pig. Some of his swine were sent to Wisconsin and Iowa, and one of his pigs at two years weighed 502 pounds when dressed. He complained, however, that prices were very low in the state when compared with other parts of the country. De Graff, like the rest, raised some Berkshires, but he also had Chester Whites and Poland Chinas.<sup>26</sup>

Complaints of low prices were fairly general until the late 1870's. In 1873 the *Winona Weekly Republican* explained that the pork trade had been poor during the previous winter because of low prices, ranging from \$4.00 to \$4.10 a hundredweight most of the season. Such prices, however, caused farmers to devote more care to methods of fattening and more attention to improved breeds. During the season of 1872 the practice of summer packing was introduced to several of the large markets of the West, and the influence of this development was soon felt in Minnesota. Hogs could be fattened more cheaply in summer than in winter, so there was now a greater inducement to farmers to engage in the business.<sup>27</sup>

Another innovation of interest came with the establishment, in the spring of 1878, of a meat-packing business by Holbrook and Company of Minneapolis. This firm had a retail department where Minneapolisians could secure for the first time the frankfurt sausage.

<sup>26</sup> *Statistics of Minnesota for 1876*, 135-137. The average price for hogs in a number of western states in 1874 was as follows: Iowa, \$6.78; Missouri, \$3.13; Wisconsin, \$5.17; Michigan, \$6.80; Illinois, \$6.31; Kansas, \$3.69; California, \$5.77; Minnesota, \$5.08.

<sup>27</sup> *Winona Weekly Republican*, February 12, 1873.

By 1880 a large part of the Minnesota product was going to Chicago and Milwaukee, centers which maintained buyers in Minnesota and could be easily reached by rail. The cry then went up in many circles that Minnesota farmers should raise more pork and that capitalists should invest in meat packing, in order to put pork on a par with wheat in the state.<sup>28</sup>

The census of 1850 recorded 874 horses in the territory, a figure which included a small number of asses and mules. Pembina, Washington, and Wabasha counties accounted for the majority of the animals. In 1860 there were 17,065 horses in the state, and in 1870 the number was 93,011, a percentage increase for the 1860's of 445. By 1880 the horse population had mounted to 257,282, for a percentage increase of 176.6 during the decade of the 1870's. There were only 13.9 horses per 100 of the rural population in 1860 as compared with 47.3 in 1880. An interesting contrast appears when the figures on horses are compared with those on work oxen. In 1860 there were 27,568 of these animals; in 1870, 43,176; and in 1880 only 36,344. The introduction of farm machinery, which operated more efficiently with horses, plus an improved standard of living, were closely related to the disappearance of oxen.<sup>29</sup>

As was the case with other farm animals, the average horse owned by pioneer Minnesotans was of a nondescript breed. For good blooded horses the state was indebted to men "not bred of farming" — Captain D. Haney of Rochester, Colonel John Farrington of St. Paul, a certain Wollgate of Fort Snelling, and Thomas Crosby of Ramsey County. Ruble Brothers of Freeborn County also raised fine horses, George S. Ruble's stallion Red Eye being known as the best in the state in 1861. Most experienced farmers welcomed these men as friends and benefactors.<sup>30</sup>

Although Morgans were in greatest favor during the 1850's, in time other breeds became popular in the region. As late as 1863, however, all the horses shown at the Minnesota State Fair were

<sup>28</sup> *Minnesota Farmer*, vol. 1, no. 8, p. 7; vol. 2, p. 182 (April, 1878; March, 1879).

<sup>29</sup> Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 103, 105, 244.

<sup>30</sup> *Minnesota Monthly*, 1:155 (May, 1869); *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:72, 154 (January, May, 1861).



PERCHERON NORMAN STALLION IMPORTED FROM FRANCE IN 1876  
[From the *Minnesota Farmer*, vol. 2, no. 1, p. 35 (September, 1878).]

Morgans or Morgan crosses. At the 1870 fair, which was held in Winona, fine Clydesdales and Percherons were shown, but not until 1875 were the latter in considerable numbers exhibited at the state fair. Leonard Johnson of Castle Rock, Dr. O. O. Evans of Minneapolis, and S. B. Spearin of Empire exhibited Percherons, and the breed drew considerable comment in the press. The horses, however, were described as "huge creatures," and the general opinion was that they were "too large and clumsy and would cost too much to maintain to be of much use to Minnesota farmers." Spearin's gray draught stallion "Sensation" weighed two thousand pounds and stood eighteen hands high.<sup>31</sup>

Two enemies that particularly jeopardized farm horses in the pioneer period were thieves and disease. The disease that was most widely publicized was "epizoot," which struck in southern Minnesota in November and December, 1872, and rapidly became epidemic. Veterinaries said it was acute catarrh and influenza, and that it originated in eastern Canada where thousands of horses died. Next it appeared in the eastern states and then it spread westward. Cities were especially hard hit. In the latter part of December, 1872, nearly all business in some counties was at a standstill because of the epizooty. It was said that the best treatment was to give afflicted horses perfect rest and keep them warm and dry. They were to be fed no hay, oats, corn, or barley, only warm bran mash mixed with a little oat or rye straw. A small dose of bromide of potassium two or three times a day in the mash for the first two or three days was recommended, as was tar on the trough, manger, and horse's nose. Fewer horses actually died of the disease in Minnesota than in some other areas.<sup>32</sup>

Various associations were formed from time to time to combat horse thieves. In southern Minnesota thieves were extremely active in the 1860's and 1870's, and they were not unknown elsewhere.

<sup>31</sup> Hall and Holcombe, *State Agricultural Society*, 75, 104, 121-123, 140. On his farm near Lake City, Willis Baker had eighteen brood mares and sixty-three horses and colts, as well as a driving park. The average price of horses in 1874 was \$72.80 in Minnesota and \$89.82 in New York. See *Statistics of Minnesota for 1876*, 121-124.

<sup>32</sup> J. E. Child, *History of Waseca County*, 256 (Owatonna, 1905); J. A. Kiester, *History of Faribault County*, 356 (Minneapolis, 1896).

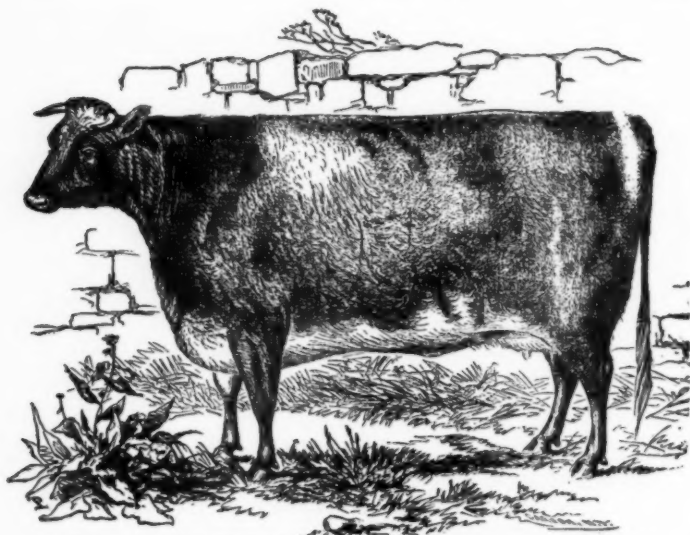
One such organization, the Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives, founded in 1864, continues to hold meetings and collect membership dues after more than eighty years. In March, 1872, the Anti-Horse Thief Association of Fergus Falls was organized, although, according to one writer, "there was not a horse in town valuable enough to tempt the most ornery horse thief." The tenth bylaw of the organization read as follows: "It shall be the sworn duty of any and all members of this society capturing a horse thief having in his possession the property of any member of the association, to promptly execute the said horse thief, by hanging, or in the absence of facilities for hanging, by shooting, or in any other manner, but in any and all events to take such effective measures as shall preclude the possibility of the return of said horse thief to commit any further depredations in the county."<sup>33</sup>

The interest in beef cattle during the 1850's and 1860's has been noted. In 1850, there were 1,395 cattle other than milch cows in Minnesota Territory, mainly in Washington, Pembina, Wabasha, and Ramsey counties. Ten years later the figure had increased to 51,345, and in 1870 it was 145,736. The increase for the 1860's was 183.8 per cent, a smaller relative gain than for any other class of stock, except swine and work oxen. In absolute numbers, however, cattle ranked second to hogs. During the 1870's the beef cattle population grew to 347,161, a gain of 138.2 per cent. In 1860 there were 41.9 cattle for every hundred people, and in 1880 there were 63.9, though cattle still ranked second in numbers to hogs.<sup>34</sup>

The most popular breed of cattle in the early years was the Shorthorn or Durham. Well-known Shorthorn raisers were De Graff and Hopkins of the Lake Elysian Stock Farm at Janesville, N. R. Clark of St. Cloud, H. F. Brown of Minneapolis, Brockway Brothers of Eyota, Major George H. Smith of Carlton County, Dr. Charles W. Ballard of Albert Lea, and William S. King of Minneapolis. The latter gained international recognition. In 1868

<sup>33</sup> John W. Mason, ed., *History of Otter Tail County*, 1:605 (Indianapolis, 1916); Gladys H. Du Priest, "The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives," *ante*, 13:153; *Waseca Journal*, April 4, 1945. The Waseca County organization held its eighty-first annual meeting on March 31, 1945.

<sup>34</sup> Robinson, *Agriculture in Minnesota*, 103, 105, 244.



THE SHORT-HORN COW "BLUSH," THE PROPERTY OF COL. WM. S. KING.—COST \$1,000

[From the *Farmers' Union*, September, 1869.]

he purchased some blooded stock in New York for his farm, located three miles from Minneapolis. Included were the "Sixth Duke of Geneva," a pure Duchess bull costing \$3,000, and "Blush," a Short-horn cow. About the same time King also bought some Ayrshires and some Jerseys. By 1869 his was said to be one of the three most valuable herds in the United States. "Mr. King's enterprise will become historic as the pioneer adventure, on a comprehensive scale, in this highly classic department of Minnesota husbandry," read one press comment.<sup>35</sup>

In 1874, when King disposed of his herd of Shorthorns in Chicago, the sale received wide publicity, and it attracted buyers from as far away as England. The cows and heifers sold at an average price of \$1,730, and the bulls at \$1,210. For one bull, the "2 Duke of

<sup>35</sup> *Statistics of Minnesota for 1876*, 126, 132-135; *Minnesota Farmer*, 2:12 (September, 1878); *Farmers' Union*, September, 1869; *Minnesota Monthly*, 1:242, 250 (July, 1869); *Independent Farmer and Fireside Companion* (St. Paul), 1:180 (November 1, 1879); *Weekly Pioneer*, October 23, 1868.

Hillhurst," King was offered \$14,000, which was said to be the highest figure ever quoted on a bull, but the deal fell through and the animal was taken back to Minnesota. Fifty-eight cows and twenty-one bulls were sold for a total of \$126,990. After the sale King still retained a fine herd of cattle in Meeker County.<sup>36</sup>

Dr. Charles W. Ballard wrote from Albert Lea, on January 14, 1877, that drovers traveling through Minnesota to buy stock to fatten in Illinois and Iowa could not obtain as good cattle as were available ten years before, even though the number of cattle was increasing. Steers two and one-half years old averaged 700 to 800 pounds and heifers 650 to 700 pounds. The reasons for the condition were lack of good care and the use of poor bulls throughout the state. Bulls were prohibited by law from running at large, but since many people figured that all animals under two years of age were calves, yearling bulls were found ranging with nearly every herd. The amount of pasture was being reduced each year, and prices were low during the 1870's. Of purebred cattle, Dr. Ballard claimed, Minnesota had produced fewer than 500, among which Shorthorns predominated. The American herd book of 1876 showed that breeders of the state had recorded only forty-nine bulls of their own raising, and of those probably a third had been sold out of the state. About 150 bulls were imported. Dr. Ballard makes it clear that so far as breeding methods were concerned, the average farmer had not progressed far beyond his predecessor of the 1850's. In 1876 at public sales 774 Shorthorn bulls were sold in Minnesota at an average price of \$242.00, and 3,230 cows brought an average price of \$365.00.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to Shorthorns, Ayrshires, and Jerseys, other breeds, such as Guernsey, Galloway, Holstein, and Angus cattle, appeared as dairying began to develop. At the state fair of 1873 Shorthorns, Ayrshires, Alderneys, and Jerseys were represented, while Shorthorns and Alderneys were the leading breeds at the fair of the next

<sup>36</sup> *Farmers' Union*, May 16, 30, 1874.

<sup>37</sup> *Statistics of Minnesota for 1876*, 130-132. The state press tried to stimulate cattle production. See, for example, the *Weekly Pioneer and Democrat*, February 22, 1861. Farmers in Freeborn County received \$6,000 for beef cattle in the fall of 1860, according to the *Farmer and Gardener*, 1:72 (January, 1861).

year. In 1883 J. J. Hill drew upon his herd, which had a national reputation, for the only showing of Polled Angus, and J. C. Easton entered the only exhibit of Scotch Galloways. A. V. Ellis of the Evergreen Stock Farm at Austin received credit for first introducing and breeding Holsteins in Minnesota.<sup>38</sup>

The Minnesota Stock Breeders' Association was organized in 1877. William S. King served as its first president, and R. C. Judson, as secretary. The organization was composed of farmers from central Minnesota, while breeders in the southern part of the state belonged to the Southern Minnesota Stock Breeders' Association. In 1878 one outstanding figure in the Minnesota livestock business, Leonard Johnson of East Castle Rock, was elected a vice-president of the National Association of Importers and Breeders of Norman Horses at a meeting in Peoria, Illinois.<sup>39</sup>

Fencing was a problem that sooner or later confronted most stockmen. At first stock was fenced out, not in. As one man put it: "In those days we used a great deal of board fencing as all our cultivated land had to be fenced in, all stock being allowed to run at large." Another, writing in the spring of 1867, complained that "Our Legislature did not see fit to compel us to restrain our cattle, therefore we must fence our crops." At times local communities took action. At Waseca, for example, the subject aroused much debate among the people and the city fathers in 1868, and as a result, on July 22, an ordinance was passed providing that cattle, horses, mules, or sheep found running at large within the village between one hour after sunset and the following sunrise should be impounded by the poundmaster, marshal, street commissioner, or constable. This was better than no law, but it was poor protection for gardens and lawns.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Hall and Holcombe, *State Agricultural Society*, 117, 119, 140; *Statistics of Minnesota for 1883*, 220 (Commissioner of Statistics, *Fifteenth Annual Report*—St. Paul, 1884); Minnesota Butter, Cheese and Dairy Stock Association, *Third Annual Meeting*, 1883, p. 120 (Austin, 1884).

<sup>39</sup> *Minnesota Farmer*, vol. 1, no. 6, p. 3; no. 7, p. 7; no. 8, p. 9 (February, March, April, 1878).

<sup>40</sup> Robert Watson, *Notes on the Early Settlement of Cottage Grove and Vicinity*, 19 (Northfield, 1924); Child, *Waseca County*, 203; *Weekly Pioneer*, March 22, 1867; Biscoe's letter, July 7, 1863, Biscoe Papers.



In his message to the legislature in 1873 Governor Horace Austin recommended "that the several counties or towns be authorized to determine for themselves the vexed question of 'fencing in or fencing out' livestock." Finally, in 1874, a herd law applying to certain parts of the state was enacted. Under its terms a farmer had no redress for damage done to his crops by stock in the daytime unless he could prove that he had a three-rail fence four feet high on the side from which the cattle entered. A law of 1878 gave the farmer damages whether or not he had a fence. Thus it became necessary to keep stock in fenced enclosures or to send them to ranges away from the farming district. Something of a business of summer herding was built up. The usual charge for herding stock from May 15 to October 15 was \$1.00 to \$1.25 a head. Some herders even went out of the state into Dakota.<sup>41</sup>

Another problem that the raiser of beef cattle had to face was how to market his animals. During the middle 1860's, for example, large herds of cattle were driven annually to Chicago from Blue Earth County. When the railroad was completed to the county it proved of great assistance in getting livestock to market. By 1880 the Twin Cities were the chief market and slaughtering center, and St. Paul soon took precedence over Minneapolis. In St. Paul there were three well-equipped stockyards, through which over 28,000 head of cattle passed in 1878. By 1882 the livestock and dressed meat business of the city was valued at \$3,515,700.<sup>42</sup> By that time the dairy industry had made great strides in the state, but that is a story which must be left for a later article.

<sup>41</sup> Theodore Christianson, *Minnesota, The Land of Sky-tinted Waters*, 1:454 (New York, 1935); L. R. Moyer and O. G. Dale, eds., *History of Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties*, 1:484 (Indianapolis, 1916); *General Laws*, 1874, p. 191-193; 1879, p. 82; H. P. McLellan, "History of the Early Settlement and Development of Polk County, Minnesota," 84. The latter item is a master's thesis prepared at Northwestern University in 1928; the Minnesota Historical Society has a copy.

<sup>42</sup> Willard, *Blue Earth County*, 6; Hartough, *The Twin Cities as a Metropolitan Market*, 66; *Independent Farmer and Fireside Companion*, 1:7 (January 1, 1879).

# Minnesota Log Marks

*Elizabeth M. Bachmann*

IN THE OFFICE of the Minnesota surveyor general of logs and lumber is a vault full of record books in which more than twenty thousand log marks are recorded. Their bulk testifies to the magnitude of the pine harvest in the days when lumbering was the state's leading industry. Large portions of the later records are in the fine Spencerian handwriting of Mr. A. D. Cook of Minneapolis, who was connected with the surveyor general's office for forty-four years.<sup>1</sup> He is rightly credited with knowing more about log marks than any other man in the state.

A law which required that all log marks be recorded before the logs bearing them could be moved was passed in 1858. It provides, in part, that anyone cutting logs in the state "shall, before proceeding to mark the same, deposit in the office of the Surveyor General in whose district the logs may be, a copy of the said mark which is to be put upon the said logs," but that the mark must be distinctly different from any other mark recorded in the same district.<sup>2</sup> The practice of marking logs in Minnesota, however, goes back farther than 1858. In 1851, when Minnesota was still a territory, the Mississippi Boom Company and the St. Croix Boom Company were incorporated. The law establishing the companies provided that they should "sort out the logs and timber according to their several

<sup>1</sup> The records accumulated by the surveyor general's office fill about 26,000 volumes and cover the years from 1860 to 1945. They include tally or scale books used in the field, bill books, log ledgers, records of contracts, of liens, and of transfers of marks, volumes in which are listed the various companies operating in Minnesota with the marks they used, indexes, and the like. Only about thirty per cent of these records remain in the surveyor general's office; the others, as inactive archives, have been transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society. The writer has drawn much material from interviews with Mr. Cook, who served the surveyor general's office in its various districts from 1887 to 1931, and with Mr. M. J. Thornton, chief deputy surveyor general of logs and lumber, who, with the exception of four years, has been associated with the office since 1901. The writer also has received valuable advice and assistance from Mr. H. G. Weber, director of the forestry division of the Minnesota department of conservation, who is now surveyor general of logs and lumber.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota, *General Laws*, 1858, p. 267.

marks," thus suggesting that the marking of logs was common practice at the time.<sup>3</sup>

The marks were a means of identification—a symbol of ownership. When a mark was sold or transferred to someone else, the transfer was reported to the surveyor general's office and recorded. Still on the statute books are laws which make it a misdemeanor to take logs from rivers, sloughs, islands, or land adjoining rivers; to cut out, mutilate, destroy, or render illegible the marks on logs; to injure logs belonging to others; to place on "any log or piece of timber, any mark except the original" one; or to "purchase, receive, or secrete saw logs" unlawfully taken from streams.<sup>4</sup> "Sinkers" or "deadheads" bearing log marks, often found in rivers or lakes forty or fifty years after the logs are cut, still belong to the owner of the mark. The ownership of deadheads can be determined from the records of the surveyor general if the mark is still legible. This was demonstrated during the summer of 1939, when a launch on the Lake of the Woods struck a partly submerged deadhead and was damaged. The owners of the launch, who were summer visitors from Chicago, were able to identify the mark on the log, made a drawing of it, and sent it to the surveyor general's office, where the records were searched and the name of the owner of the mark ascertained.

The law provided for the establishment of seven lumber districts, "for the purpose of the survey and measurement of logs, lumber and timber within this state." The districts embraced "St. Croix lake and river and their tributaries," with headquarters at Stillwater; the "Mississippi river and its tributaries between the mouth of the St. Croix lake and the mouth of Elk river," with headquarters at the Falls of St. Anthony; the "Mississippi river and its tributaries between the mouth of the St. Croix lake and the outlet of Lake Pepin," with headquarters at Red Wing; the "Mississippi river and its tributaries above the mouth of Elk river," with headquarters at St. Cloud;

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota Territory, *Session Laws*, 1851, p. 21. Laws passed by other states indicate that the ownership of logs was to a large extent dependent upon log marks. It thus seems obvious that the marking of logs antedated the laws regulating the practice.

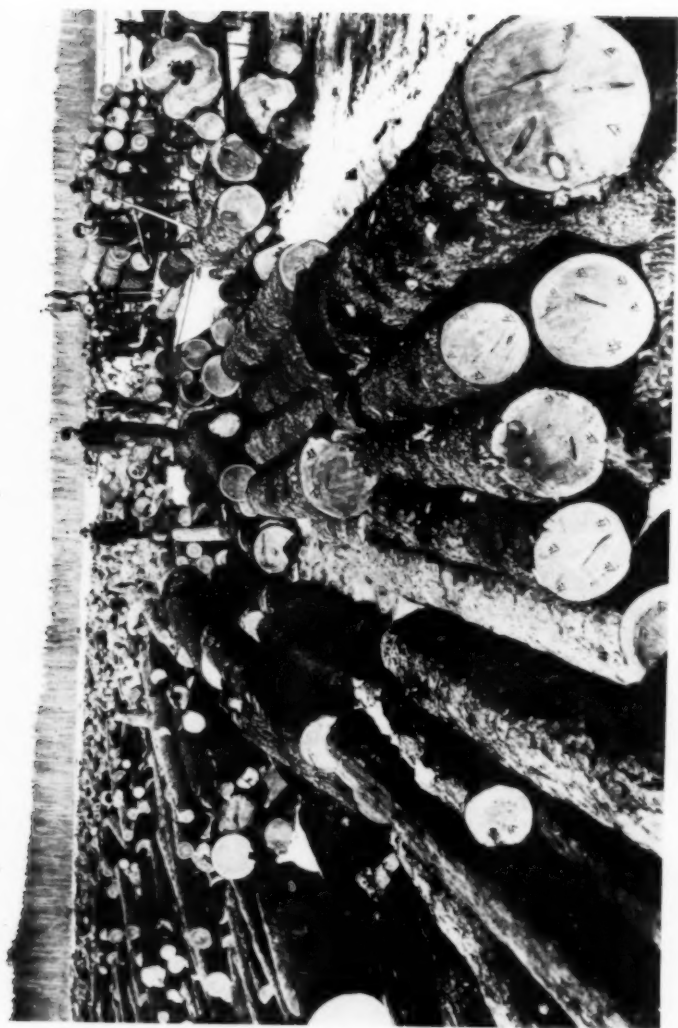
<sup>4</sup> *Session Laws*, 1854, p. 4; *General Statutes*, 1866, p. 247.

the "Mississippi river and its tributaries below the outlet of Lake Pepin to the southern line of Wabashaw county," with headquarters at Wabasha; the "bay of Superior, Saint Louis bay, St. Louis river and their tributaries," with headquarters at Oneota; and the "Mississippi river and its tributaries from the southern line of Wabashaw county to the southern line of the state of Minnesota." All rivers of sufficient size for floating or driving logs were declared to be public highways within the state. No individual could claim prior water rights, nor could owners of land bordering on the rivers interfere with the flotage of logs. As the logging era in Minnesota declined, the number of lumber districts decreased, until in 1919 the seven had been consolidated into a single district with headquarters in the Capitol in St. Paul.<sup>5</sup>

A logger could request the surveyor general's office to assign a log mark to him, or, if he had a mark of his own and wished to have it recorded, he sent it to that office, where it was checked to avoid duplication. If there was another recorded mark exactly like it, a slight change was made in order to distinguish the new mark from all others. Despite such precautions, duplication occasionally occurred; hence a law provided for settlement of any dispute resulting from it.<sup>6</sup> It read as follows: "In cases where logs or timber bearing the same mark but belonging to different owners . . . have without the fault of any of them become so intermingled that the particular or identical logs or timber belonging to each cannot be designated, either of such owners may upon a failure of any one of them having the possession, to make a just division thereof after demand, bring and maintain against such one in possession an action to recover his proportionate share of said logs or timber and in such action he may claim and have the immediate delivery of such quantity of said mark of logs or timber as shall equal his said share, in like manner and with

<sup>5</sup> *General Statutes*, 1866, p. 243; *Laws*, 1919, p. 513. The law failed to designate the headquarters of the seventh district. The original act providing for the "survey of logs and lumber in Minnesota Territory," passed in 1854, designated only three districts. *Laws*, 1854, p. 53.

<sup>6</sup> *General Statutes*, 1866, p. 250. There is evidence that in spite of branding, disputes arose frequently between loggers and mill owners over the number of logs received at the mills. Rodney C. Lochr, "Caleb D. Dorr and the Early Minnesota Lumber Industry," *ante*, 24:135.



# LOGS AT A LANDING, 1912

[The end mark, which is described as "V embracing cross," was transferred in 1911 from the Namakan Lumber Company to the Shevlin-Mathieu Lumber Company. From a photograph in the collection of the forestry division of the Minnesota department of conservation.]



A LOG JAM ON THE ST. CROIX RIVER, 1886

[From a photograph in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.]

like force and effect as though such quantity embraced his identical logs and timber and no other."

Logs were marked on both ends as well as on the bark. The end marks were made with a heavy stamp hammer. If a logger wished, he could order his stamp hammer through the surveyor general of his lumber district when he sent his mark for recording. A small charge was made for the stamp hammer, which was made of cast iron, had a long handle like an ax, and weighed four or five pounds.<sup>7</sup> On its face was the design of the desired log mark in raised letters. Although the indentation made with such hammers was not an inch deep, the end mark was usually discernible even after parts of the ends of logs were removed, for the compression of the wood fibers extended into the wood for several inches. It has been said that when loggers were engaged in end-marking logs on cold mornings, "the clear, sharp ring of the hammer could be heard for long distances." The end mark was stamped three or four times in as many different places on each end of a log, so that at least one mark would be visible regardless of the position of the log in the water. One writer records that "Not every greenhorn could end stamp logs to suit woods foremen. The hammer had to be swung hard enough to make a deep imprint in the green timber."<sup>8</sup>

Bark marks were cut with an ax three feet from the butt of the log. They could be easily found when the logs were in the water simply by rolling them. Bark marks were put on logs until about 1910. After that end marks only were used, and the bark mark cutters passed out of existence. Although the log mark no longer plays the important role it once did, some logging companies continue the practice of end-marking logs. All state timber, even pulpwood, is marked and must, by law, bear the stamp "M I N" and the permit number.<sup>9</sup> Although a purchaser of state timber may add his own mark, he may not obliterate the state mark. When both bark marks and end marks were used, they usually were not identical.

<sup>7</sup> Most of the stamp hammers used in Minnesota were cast by the Floyd Iron Works of Duluth.

<sup>8</sup> A. H. Sanford, "Log Marking," in *La Crosse County Historical Sketches*, series 1, p. 67 (La Crosse, 1931); "Up in This Neck of the Woods," in *Grand Rapids Herald-Review*, December 8, 1943.

<sup>9</sup> *Laws*, 1925, p. 333.

Logs were marked on the skidways in the woods before being moved to the rivers. Then they went to the sorting works, or boom, which had many divisions, called pockets. There logs were sorted and marked with a catch mark, according to the log marks already on them. An ax with a long handle was used to cut this mark. The logs were then directed with long pike poles along the race or center of the sorting place into one of the pockets. The booms were as much as four miles long and a half mile wide. They often were filled with thousands upon thousands of logs belonging to different owners. Ordinarily the work, which was conducted by boom companies, went along smoothly. In a stream with a strong current, however, it was difficult for even the most skillful workers to sort and keep sorted the many different owners' logs.<sup>10</sup> One of the important duties of the surveyor general's men was to keep an accurate record of logs as they went through the boom and to see that each owner was compensated for any logs that may have gone into another lumberman's boom. The manner in which the logs were accounted for is described as an almost superhuman feat.

Unmarked logs were the bane of the sorter's existence. According to one account, "Ire and profanity arose when an unmarked log got into the gap, like a tramp crashing the Ambassadors' Ball, for it held up the parade."<sup>11</sup> All logs were examined, and when no mark could be found on them, they were thrust aside with others like them. Comparatively few logs were unmarked, however. Under a Minnesota law of 1862 "logs or timber found in the waters of any lumber district, not in the possession or under the control of any person, which have no distinctive mark, or marks which are not recorded in the proper district, shall be deemed abandoned, and shall not be recognized as property by the courts." A court order, however, provided that on the St. Croix, unmarked logs floating in the stream, "though within jurisdiction of boom company, become property of

<sup>10</sup> The work of the boom companies, which included counting and sorting logs, measuring or scaling the timber they contained, and making them up into rafts, is described by Loehr, *ante*, 24:134-137.

<sup>11</sup> *Michigan Log Marks*, 24 (Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, *Memoir Bulletins*, no. 4 — East Lansing, 1942).



person who picks them up and causes them to be marked with his own mark before they reach boom or sorting works of company." There is a specific provision to the effect that this law does not apply to logs resting on land.<sup>12</sup>

Below the boom the logs were assembled into rafts or brails. Logs sufficient to form an open rectangle 660 feet long and 60 feet wide were fastened together end to end. They were secured at the corners by means of chains attached to wooden pegs about ten inches long and three inches in diameter, and similarly throughout the 660 feet. The open rectangle was filled with logs, presumably all bearing the same mark, which were "poled in," usually parallel with the long side. Wires fastened at intervals across the width of the raft held the logs in place. A scramble brail was composed of unmarked logs and logs bearing various marks which had not been included with the others. The heterogeneous collection of stray logs in the scramble brail was sold and the owners of the marked logs were paid for them. In the second Minnesota lumber district a count was kept of unmarked logs and at the end of the season their value was distributed among the various concerns that had passed the logs through the rafting works, the division being in proportion to their respective "runs" of logs.<sup>13</sup> After floating downstream, the logs were made into rafts, often nine brails wide and a mile long. So far as was humanly possible, it was arranged that all the logs in a boom belonged to one owner.

It was considered a serious breach of the law to tamper with a boom. The law on the subject provides that "whoever willfully and maliciously opens, breaks, cuts, or otherwise destroys or injures any side or other boom, or turns the whole or any part of the logs or timber contained therein loose or adrift, except . . . in case such boom materially obstructs the navigation of any navigable stream or unlawfully intrudes upon the property of any such person . . . or who willfully and maliciously cuts loose or turns adrift any boom,

<sup>12</sup> *Mason's Minnesota Statutes*, 2:1334 (St. Paul, 1927). See also *General Laws*, 1862, p. 151.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Mr. Thornton. On the St. Croix, unmarked logs became the property of the boom company. *Minnesota Reports*, 110:61.

brill, string or raft of logs, timber or lumber, is guilty of a misdemeanor."<sup>14</sup>

Logs reached the Mississippi River from most of its numerous tributaries. Statistics indicate that the logs cut from 1848 to 1899 in the region drained by the Mississippi above Minneapolis yielded about seventy-five million dollars.<sup>15</sup> The wealth derived from manufactured lumber contributed in a very large degree to the agricultural and commercial development of Minnesota and North and South Dakota.

During the height of the lumbering era boom companies were operating at sorting works in Minneapolis above the Falls of St. Anthony, at St. Paul, at West Newton, and at other points on the Mississippi. After being sorted, the logs were brailed into rafts and towed down the river to such places as Rock Island, where the first of the Weyerhaeuser mills was located, Dubuque, Burlington, and St. Louis. Boats owned by the Diamond Jo Line and other steamboat companies on the upper river did the towing, usually operating in pairs. Two stern-wheelers, a small one at the bow and a larger one at the stern, ordinarily moved the huge rafts downstream. Mr. M. J. Thornton recalls one such combination of steamboats with the distinctive names of "Saturn" and "Satellite." To guide enormous rafts of logs around bends in the river, both boats had to do considerable maneuvering.

The logs in the Wabasha district were boomed at Beef Slough on the Mississippi between Alma, Wisconsin, and Wabasha. In 1896 the rafting works were moved down the river and over to the Minnesota side at West Newton, fourteen miles below Wabasha. There all logs entering the state through the Chippewa River from Wisconsin were sorted, boomed, and scaled. Logs in the Stillwater district, constituting the St. Croix River and its tributaries, were boomed at Stillwater. The stamp-hammer marks on the millions of feet of logs that went through the Stillwater boom in 1881 are recorded in a little book kept by Edward Rutherford, foreman of the St. Croix Boom

<sup>14</sup> *General Statutes*, 1866, p. 248.

<sup>15</sup> Daniel Stanchfield, "History of Pioneer Lumbering on the Upper Mississippi and Its Tributaries," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 9:362.

Company. This interesting record is now preserved by the Washington County Historical Society.<sup>16</sup>

An idea of the charges made for boomage services may be gained from the fact that in 1854 the St. Croix Boom Company was authorized by law to collect the "sum of fifty cents per thousand feet for every thousand feet of logs or timber, so sorted out and rafted, and made ready for delivery . . . at the foot of said boom; and fifty-five cents per thousand feet . . . for all logs sorted out, rafted . . . and delivered in the Cedar Bend Sloughs; and sixty-five cents per thousand feet . . . for all logs or timber, sorted out and rafted . . . and delivered at any point between Cedar Bend Sloughs and Arcola; and seventy cents per thousand feet . . . for all logs sorted out rafted . . . and delivered at any point between Arcola and the head of Lake St. Croix."<sup>17</sup>

Often in the sweeping curve of a swift stream log jams occurred. One of the largest known was formed in the St. Croix River above Taylors Falls in the spring of 1886. It has been estimated that a hundred and fifty million feet of logs jammed the river for miles from bank to bank. It was most difficult to break, and it dammed up the river for months. In an effort to break the jam, two steamboats stationed below the bridge at the dalles were chained to a few logs at a time, pulling them downstream. But as soon as the logs reached the eddy between the cliffs they jammed up again. Several hundred men and many horses labored all summer to break the jam. And all summer Taylors Falls was crowded with sightseers who came to look at the log jam. Mr. Cook recalls that in one of the larger hotels the tables were set four times each noon to accommodate visitors who did not have lunches with them. Another enormous log jam described by Mr. Cook formed an obstruction in the Mississippi River about 1900. It extended from North Minneapolis, above the Falls of St. Anthony, almost as far as Fridley, a distance of about six miles. It was described as a "bad one," by comparison with which the jam in the St. Croix River appeared orderly, for in the Mississippi the logs seemed to stand on end and point in every direction,

<sup>16</sup> See *ante*, 23:395.

<sup>17</sup> *Laws*, 1854, p. 9.

like straws in a strawstack. Pictures showing the magnitude of these and other logs jams which dammed up Minnesota streams at various times have been preserved.<sup>18</sup>

In order to keep the streams navigable for log driving, dams often were built to back up the water, particularly during times of low water. When a dam was opened, the released torrent of water carried the logs safely over the low spot. Sometimes the water was held back during flood stage for later use. In 1894 the Mississippi above Minneapolis was so low that the water hardly covered the river bed in some places. A contemporary account records that "sand bars and rocks are becoming prominent all along the river," and that "just above the falls it is so low that it is seriously interfering with log sorting by the Boom company."<sup>19</sup> Low water meant a slack current, which often left logs stranded on sand bars. Sediment and debris drifted against them, and other logs lodged on top of the first layer. As the process continued and vegetative growth took hold, a small island was formed. Not long ago an island in the Mississippi River below Brainerd was explored and logs were found under a growth of willows. Salvage operations followed and produced several hundred thousand feet of logs. There was no appreciable deterioration because the logs had been under water so long and they were just as useable for lumber as newly cut timber. Not all deadheads, however, were recovered so late. Mr. Cook estimates that about seventy-five million feet of deadheads were taken out of the Mississippi over a twenty-year period after the drives. A million feet of lumber is equivalent to about thirty-five thousand logs. As late as 1917 two small mills at Minneapolis were sawing deadheads.<sup>20</sup>



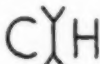

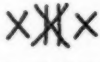


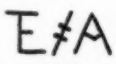




The log marks themselves, as preserved in the surveyor general's records, reflect an aspect of logging history which stirs the imagination. They are much like western cattle brands, with which most people are familiar. Both use the "lazy A's." In addition among log marks are found "turtle girdle A's," "wildgoose A's," and "double dart A's." There are "double diamonds combined," "pitchfork twen-

<sup>18</sup> Such photographs are to be found in the picture collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Forest Service.

<sup>19</sup> *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, vol. 25, no. 3, p. 5 (July 27, 1894).

<sup>20</sup> Loehr, *ante*, 24:137.

ties," and many other marks. They are to a certain extent self-explanatory. The "turtle mark," for example, is a circle with four short notches extending outward about where a turtle's legs would be. A "girdle" is simply a straight diagonal mark. Such a mark with

DAVID TOZER  Pitchfork	E. W. BACKUS  B scalp A	W. D. WASHBURN  C. double Y reversed H
CHAS. BRYENTON  Reel	JONATHAN CHASE  Cross cross on two girdles cross	ERASTUS BYERS  Two double darts
THOMAS CARMICHAEL  Snowshoe	J. S. PILLSBURY & CO.  TEL combined girdle twenty A	J. B. BASSETT & CO.  Roof Y girdle twenty
McFARLAND & PICKETT  New hat	T. B. WALKER  TWB combined	FARNHAM & LOVEJOY  F thirty combined H
END MARKS	BARK MARKS	END MARKS

two notches cut across it is known as "girdle twenty" or simply as "twenty." Three notches make it "thirty." Two straight up-and-down marks, with two straight marks crossing them, after the manner of the "cat and dog" game that children play, are called "forty." A logger's shorthand system, the log-mark notations might be called. There are marks known as "double hatchets," "umbrellas," "blocks," "crosses," and "oxshoes," and there are combinations of letters which

make unique symbols. Enough different combinations of comparatively simple marks exist to make some twenty thousand individual log marks for Minnesota alone. A comparison shows that many of the marks used in Minnesota were identical with those found in the early logging records of Maine, the state from which many of Minnesota's pioneer lumbermen came.<sup>21</sup>

A Stillwater log mark of more than passing interest is that of Isaac Staples, who figured prominently in the early history of the St. Croix Valley city. The end mark used on the Staples logs is described as "S notch bar notch combined," but actually it is an "S" with an "I" through it. Other Stillwater lumbermen and lumber companies whose log marks are recorded are Peter Rookey, who used a mark called "diamond notch K"; Robert Burch, whose mark was described as "notch two Y's notch"; Thomas Carmichael, whose mark was described as a "snowshoe"; James Gillnaught, who had his initials in a circle; and Weyerhaeuser and Rutledge, one of whose marks was "YW combined girdle cross D." The mark "YW combined" was a well-known Weyerhaeuser mark, and many other symbols were added to it as other marks were needed. Similarly, everyone knew that the mark "V girdle V" belonged to the Shevlin Carpenter Company, and numerous additions to this basic symbol are found in the record books. The mark of the Pine Tree Lumber Company was the "treetop" mark, which preceded all its more complicated symbols.

Records of the Minneapolis lumber district disclose such familiar names as W. D. Washburn, T. B. Walker, E. W. Backus, and J. S. Pillsbury. The larger companies used a great many different marks, many of which were acquired by purchase, and the records show page after page of the various marks owned by a single lumber company. There are old-time names like the St. Anthony Lumber Company and the Mississippi River Lumber and Boom Company. James Goodnow's mark had the startling name of "blaze on a girdle R two blazes." Among the symbols on the logs of Farnham

<sup>21</sup> With them were transferred to the West many of the methods and practices followed in the Maine woods from 1830 to 1850. Stanchfield, in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 9:346.



**A RAFT OF LOGS ABOVE A DAM**

[From a photograph in the possession of the Minnesota forestry division.]





and Lovejoy was one called "cross V two notches on a girdle three notches." One of Erastus Byers' marks had the long name of "three notches W two blocks combined three notches," but it probably took no longer to make the mark than to describe it.

The log mark is believed to have been derived from the "king's broad arrow," a mark blazed on trees of certain dimensions by crown surveyors in colonial days. It was an indication that the trees—always the very finest white pines—were to be reserved for masts for the royal navy. During the New England hurricane of 1938, a pine tree was blown down which seems to have been blazed with the king's broad arrow mark.<sup>22</sup> Eventually the colonists adopted the king's system, marking their own trees and logs. From this practice evolved the individual log marks that were to play a significant part in the industry which transformed a wilderness into an empire.

<sup>22</sup> Specifications for trees thus marked are to be found in Austin H. Wilkins, *Forests of Maine, Their Extent, Character, Ownership, and Products* (Maine Forest Service, *Bulletins*, no. 8—Augusta, 1932). The hurricane incident is described by John H. Foster, state forester of New Hampshire, in a letter to the writer, January 21, 1944.

# Minnesota History and the Schools

## "PICTORIAL MINNESOTA"

*Edgar B. Wesley*

THE MINNESOTA Historical Society has begun the publication of a series of picture leaflets under the title *Pictorial Minnesota*. Each set is to contain about a dozen pictures. They are reproduced on white paper of good quality and thus show details without any strain upon the eyes. An illuminating caption tells something of each picture and also what it shows. The first two sets have appeared and deserve attention.

Set I, "The Indians," shows pictures of a Chippewa hut, a Sioux tepee, a buffalo hunt, gathering wild rice, making maple sugar, playing la crosse, Little Crow, Leading Feather, and the title page of an issue of *The Dakota Friend*, a monthly magazine published in the Dakota language by Gideon H. Pond. Set II, "Pioneer Buildings and Equipment," shows two log cabins, a log school, the Chapel of St. Paul, inside views of log cabins, groups of household utensils, the Sibley House, a city house of 1860, and a farm scene of 1870. Other sets are to be prepared.

It is difficult to secure contemporary pictures which are authentic, clear, and significant. Yet such pictures are worth the effort needed to obtain them. The individual who undertakes the task of finding a set of pictures dealing with some aspect of early Minnesota is likely to give up and accept fabricated drawings. Fortunately the historical society, with its great resources, can succeed where even an enthusiastic individual might fail.

The new series should serve several purposes and various groups. A lecturer could pass them to small groups and vivify his presentation. Public libraries should make several sets available. Schools should acquire many sets. In fact, if all schools acquired several sets for use in scrapbooks, class reports, and notebooks, they would

thereby remove the temptation on the part of the pupils to mutilate library books.

The historical and educational value of the series is beyond question. The clarity and authenticity of the work, judging by the first two sets, are of high quality. The great value of visual aids has been proved and re-proved, and so teachers will already be convinced of the value of *Pictorial Minnesota*, not only in teaching Minnesota history but also in presenting American history and literature courses.

## Notes and Documents

### MAYER'S ALBUM OF MINNESOTA DRAWINGS

*Bertha L. Heilbron*

REMINDERS of the artistic importance that Frank B. Mayer attached to his Minnesota journey of 1851 are still coming to the attention of the Minnesota Historical Society, more than a decade after the publication of his written and pictorial records of the trip. Both the diary and the sketches published in 1932 are in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago; Goucher College in Baltimore has thirty-one water colors which the artist based upon his Minnesota sketches; a second version of the diary, more complete than that in the Newberry Library, was presented to the American Museum of Natural History in New York in 1936;<sup>1</sup> and only recently the Minnesota drawings in an "Album" owned by the New York Public Library were identified as Mayer's work.

For more than thirty years the album has reposed in the library's Reserve Book Room. It was purchased in March, 1912, from Wilberforce Eames, the distinguished bibliographer and collector. He, in turn, obtained it some years earlier from the Anderson Auction Company. The catalogue issued by that firm on January 14, 1907, lists the album as item 249 with the following description: "Album of drawings, mostly in pencil, but a few in water-colors, of scenes, incidents, portraits, etc., made during the Sioux troubles of 1851-52, and the Sioux rising of 1863 under Little Crow. The drawings, which number about 700, vary in size from thumb nail sketches to drawings about 9 in. square. . . . One of the drawings is signed 'White, fecit,' the others not signed but evidently by the same artist."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier in 1851: The Diary and Sketches of Frank Blackwell Mayer*, edited by Bertha L. Heilbron, was published in 1932 by the Minnesota Historical Society as volume 1 of its *Narratives and Documents* series. An account of the Goucher College water colors and extracts from the diary owned by the American Museum of Natural History appear *ante*, 13:408-414, 22:133-156.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Rice North, chief of the reference department, New York Public Library, to the writer, December 26, 1944.

The pictures are mounted, sometimes on one and sometimes on both sides of the sheet, in an album of forty-eight leaves. There are pictures on a total of sixty-three pages.

There are several glaring errors in the auction catalogue description. The "Sioux troubles of 1851-52" are pure fiction, and the "Sioux rising . . . under Little Crow" began in 1862. It is true that the outbreak continued into the following year, but Mayer's drawings in no way relate to that tragic event. The one hint of the Indian war in the entire album is a notation on the first page which reads: "Sioux Uprising in 1862 Yanketons not in it." The hundreds of drawings of Indians in the collection picture the Sioux peacefully living at Kaposia or assembled for treaty-making purposes at Traverse des Sioux and Fort Snelling. The Indian and other sketches in the album duplicate to a large degree Mayer's drawings in the six sketchbooks owned by the Newberry Library. The one picture in the entire collection that is signed by White is a crude portrait of Mayer. Obviously this is the work of an amateur, not of the skilled artist who produced the rest of the drawings. A similar sketch, which has been identified as the work of Ashton White, appears in one of Mayer's sketchbooks.<sup>3</sup>

Many of the New York drawings are far more finished than those in the Newberry Library's sketchbooks; others bear notations that add to available information about the sketches, identify previously unknown subjects, or confirm conclusions reached earlier. A sketch of James M. Goodhue napping beside a tent at Traverse des Sioux is captioned merely "The editor of the 'Pioneer'" in the sketchbook, whereas the album drawing bears the explicit and somewhat uncomplimentary comment, "Col. Goodhue editor Pioneer as usual." A profile of Governor Ramsey, missing from the sketchbooks, appears in the album with the label, "Alex. Ramsey of Penn. Gov. Minnesota Terry."<sup>4</sup> It is gratifying to find among the por-

<sup>3</sup> White's sketch is reproduced in Mayer, *With Pen and Pencil*, 161. Some of the other drawings in the New York collection are erroneously credited to White in a descriptive note accompanying Plate 13 in Fritz Kredel and Frederick P. Todd, *Soldiers of the American Army, 1775-1941* (New York, 1941).

<sup>4</sup> An original Ramsey portrait by Mayer is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. It is reproduced and described *ante*, 14:425.

traits in the New York collection a well-drawn likeness of Dr. Thomas Foster, secretary to the treaty commission, who later became a prominent Minnesota journalist. A view of Fort Snelling as seen from Mendota found in the album is far superior to representations of the post appearing in the sketchbooks. The camping scenes and Minnesota River views are clearly defined and far more finished in technique than those previously seen. Some of the latter include good pictures of the keelboat in which the Traverse des Sioux party traveled. The sketchy drawing in the album of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux has an atmosphere of living authenticity that is completely missing in Mayer's later oil painting of the event.<sup>5</sup>

It would be difficult to determine with certainty which set of drawings was made by Mayer during his western travels. Superficial evidence seems to indicate that the sketches in the album are based upon those in the sketchbooks. It might be worth noting that the album contains Minnesota drawings only, whereas two of the sketchbooks include many pictures made on the journeys to and from the West. Since Mayer's diary exists in two forms, it is not surprising to find a second version of the pictures intended to illustrate it.

Through the courtesy of the New York Public Library, the Minnesota Historical Society has obtained photostatic copies of the drawings in the Mayer album. They have been added to the society's few original Mayer items and the numerous copies of his works obtained earlier from other libraries and from private owners. The resulting collection is one of remarkable extent and completeness—a pictorial record that students of territorial history, of Indian life, and of western art cannot afford to overlook.

<sup>5</sup> The painting, which is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society, is reproduced in Mayer, *With Pen and Pencil*, 18.

## Reviews of Books

*The Midwest Pioneer: His Ills, Cures, & Doctors.* By MADGE E. PICKARD and R. CARLYLE BULEY. (Crawfordsville, Indiana, R. E. Banta, 1945. 319 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Anyone who still views American pioneer life through a rainbow haze of romance would do well to read this account of health and medicine on the frontier a hundred years and more ago. It begins with a recital of the ills the land was heir to. So many, frequent, and severe were they that a man who could say he was feeling "tolerable, just tolerable" was considered to be in good health. "Things seldom got better than that." Among the plagues, endemic and epidemic, that made life uncommonly hard the familiar ague was the most widespread; the yellowish pallor it produced became a distinguishing mark of the Westerner. But sharing it with all one's neighbors made it no more pleasant. Those who had settled where it was prevalent longed to flee and warned others to stay away:

Don't go to Michigan, that land of ills;  
The word means ague, fever and chills.

To combat the hazards of sickness the frontier settlers had their traditional folk remedies, compounded of about equal parts of herbal lore and superstition; their choice of half a hundred "patent" medicines, so called to take advantage of the plain man's faith in the patent as a sign of government approval; and as a last resort the doctor, any doctor. It didn't much matter which of the eighteen or so varieties he belonged to. It was said "the patients of the homeopaths died of the disease, and the patients of the allopaths died of the cure." Those were the days when theoretical systems instead of science dictated medical practice, and the heroic bleeding, blistering, and purging to which "regular" doctors subscribed justify the dedication of this book "to the Pioneer who bravely faced the Doctor."

Here, too, is the story in brief of the first Midwestern medical schools, proprietary all, and of the acrimonious rivalry among them; of outstanding personalities and classics, such as Dr. Daniel Drake and his famous treatise, *Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America*; of the early hospitals, to which the patient went to die, not to get well; of the medical

sects that divided and subdivided with the speed of the animalculae they argued about, scrapping each with each and all with the regulars; of the beginnings of organization and regulation that slowly made order from the chaos. The authors' Midwest extends only to the western borders of Wisconsin, but Minnesota's history could supply many an illustration of their topics.

The general outline of this story is familiar enough, but it is not elsewhere so conveniently and readably synthesized, and its details, culled from a variety of contemporary sources, will be new to most laymen and to many doctors. Why then, one wonders, do the authors seem somewhat apologetic, calling their book "a by-product . . . of some importance"? By their own statement, no problem the pioneer faced in the conquest of the wilderness was of more importance than that of health.

One may apply here a recent statement by Dr. Richard Shryock: "The value of studies in the history of American science is not to be found primarily in contributions to the history of science as such, but rather to the history of the United States." The ills of the pioneer and the methods of combating them may be of little moment in the sweep of the history of medicine, but they are far from unimportant in the history of the United States. If there is any need to apologize for writing about our medical past, it is for continuing to describe it in isolation; it is time to discuss it in the general context of our social history—not as a collection of amusing trivia but as a force affecting and affected by other aspects of social change. One continues to wish, for instance, that someone would take direct account of the evidence that the search for health and a place of healthful living was much more than an incidental factor in the westward movement of the frontier.

HELEN CLAPESATTLE

*Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1760-1900 (Supplements to the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, no. 4).* By ERWIN H. ACKER-KNECHT. (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1945. viii, 142 p. Maps, charts. Paper, \$2.00.)

Only within the past quarter of a century have historians paid serious attention to the impact of disease on the settlement of the American frontier. Researchers delved deep into pioneer politics, examined the records of the public domain, interpreted the literature of the valley of democracy, and narrated the economics of the hunter, the trapper, and the husbandman. They wrote the biographies of politicians, statesmen,



soldiers, and reformers. But, in general, they ignored the frontier doctor and shunned the diseases that conditioned the westward movement. The history of medicine and of public health was pushed aside as if of little consequence. Specific investigations of *materia medica*, of great epidemics, of pathology, of surgery, of obstetrics, and of definite ills that racked the frame of the "stalwart" frontiersman were too frequently ignored.

The First World War, emphasizing disease and medical treatment in the armed forces, stimulated a small group of historians to turn back to a voluminous literature that described symptoms and treatment. The library of the surgeon general of the United States proved to be a treasure house, as did the great many-volume compilation of the medical and surgical history of the Civil War. For the first time the investigator thumbed the faded leaves of the nation's state and regional medical journals.

Two periodicals, the *Annals of Medical History* and the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, began publication. It is unfortunate, indeed, that the former was forced to suspend publication several years ago. The latter, however, still exists and, from time to time, issues *Supplements* dealing in great detail with a specific problem. *Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1760-1900* is the fourth in the series.

Recognizing two or more centuries of confusion concerning that frontier plague malaria, Dr. Erwin H. Ackerknecht set himself the task of organizing malaria literature, tracing the geographic limits of the disease, interpreting its influence upon the march of the emigrants, and outlining methods of treatment that eventually led to its decline in the upper Mississippi Valley. He has achieved a far more creditable result than John S. Chambers did in his *The Conquest of Cholera*.

Malaria, of course, was not hard to recognize among the settlers. Hundreds of commentators described it in diaries, newspapers, books of travel, and medical journals. It was the disease that made the pioneer "pale, gaunt, haggard, attenuated, narrow chested, spindle-shanked, sharp featured, lantern jawed, lank-haired, anxious eyed, with care-furrowed brow, of pasty, sallow, bilious or dyspeptic complexion, of serious, concentrated, careworn expression and languid or irritable mien." Innumerable cartoons and poems continued the unlovely description.

And today the swallows flitting  
Round my cabin see me sitting  
Moody within the sunshine  
Just within my silent door;

Waiting for the "ager," seeming  
Like a man forever dreaming  
And the sunlight on me streaming  
    Throws no shadow on the floor;  
For I am too thin and fallow  
To make shadows on the floor—  
    Nary shadows any more!

The bulk of Mr. Ackerknecht's volume discusses the rise and fall of malaria in the upper Mississippi Valley, with detailed emphasis upon history, etiology, and treatment in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The author also examines, in a most careful manner, the possible factors accounting for the disappearance of the disease. Among the agents responsible for the decline of malaria are proper clearing, cultivation, and drainage; housing, screening, and food; and education. The mosquito receives proper emphasis, and great attention is given to the evolution of the quinine treatment. The author's discussion of quinine is one of the most adequate in contemporary literature. Of particular interest is a section dealing with the economic aspects of quinine, in which the writer cites quinine prices from 1823 to 1897 and also gives the total pounds of quinine bark and sulfate imported from 1870 to 1897. "Without quinine," says the author, "the economic development of the whole region and therewith the decline of malaria would most probably have been at least considerably retarded."

Marked by careful research and bearing on every page the impress of sound judgment, this study sets an unusually high standard for monographs dealing with medical history. It could well serve as an example for future investigations. Many such specific studies are urgently needed before the definitive history of medicine in the United States can be written.

Defects are few and unworthy of mention. Perhaps the major fault of the *Supplement* is an awkward and, in many instances, an obtuse and difficult literary style. Many sentences could have been sharpened to bring greater readability. Had the volume carried an index, it would have been a much more useful reference tool.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

*Austrian Aid to American Catholics, 1830-1860.* By BENJAMIN J. BLIED, Ph.D. (Milwaukee, privately printed, 1944. 205 p. \$2.50.)

Father Blied gives here a fine bit of perspective to the well-known work of missionaries, such as Bishop Baraga and Father Pierz, to the

Indians of the Old Northwest. For that, if for no other reason, the study has value to the student of Minnesota history. However, the background sketched for missionary activity of men who like Baraga and Pierz hailed from central Europe is much broader and the vista of activity much more inclusive.

A historical prelude gives us something of an appreciation of the influences that helped mould American attitudes toward the Austrians and which might account for the Austrian anxieties about the American ideal. The story of the founding of the Leopoldine Society for the support of missionary activity in the United States is excellently told. Counterpart of the *Société pour la propagation de la foi* in France, and strongly supported by the royal house of Austria, this organization contributed most generously to the establishment of missions for the Indians, seminaries for the training of priests, and orphanages to provide care for the young cast on the responsible care of the church through sudden bereavements caused by the cholera or the rude experiences of the frontier. The story of the needs and anxieties of churchmen is interestingly told, although the style is often heavy and of a character that might be called Germanic.

We are given many good biographical sketches of the clergy who worked in various dioceses along the Atlantic seaboard, as well as in the Middle West. The various efforts at foundations made by groups of religious of Austrian origin, Redemptorists, Jesuits, Franciscans, Capuchins, and Praemonstratensians are recounted. The author has crowded into a brief space the fruit of much research. He provides the reader with a very workable bibliography and an adequate index. From the reading of the book much can be derived for the better understanding of the national and language problems that German immigration brought to the American shore.

JAMES L. CONNOLLY

*How to Dispose of Records: A Manual for Federal Officials.* (Washington, The National Archives, 1945. iv, 50 p.)

At a time when a quarter of the working population of the nation is in the employ of the federal government, the problem of the disposal of the records of their services and productions becomes a serious one. This *Manual* is prepared for the guidance and instruction of national government officials who are facing this situation. It furnishes an outline for surveying records and criteria for determining their value. The materials

are thereby classified in three groups: those whose official value has come to an end, and which should be destroyed; those still having a temporary value, and that should be maintained inexpensively in the custody of some suitable agency; and those of enduring value, which are to be transferred to the National Archives.

It is not only federal officials who are threatened with burial under an accumulation of records. State departments, county governments, and municipalities, as well as semipublic organizations, business establishments, and even individuals, are perplexed as to what should be preserved and what can safely be destroyed. Many libraries and historical societies, which for years collected manuscript and printed records more or less indiscriminately, are now giving more thought to the prospective value of materials before accepting them for permanent preservation. While this *Manual* makes no pretense of solving the disposal problems of all these agencies, they can all profit by a study of the working principles it lays down.

ALICE E. SMITH

*Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society.* Edited by ALICE E. SMITH. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1944. xi, 290 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Nearly forty years ago the State Historical Society of Wisconsin published a *Descriptive List of Manuscript Collections* edited by Reuben G. Thwaites. It included the invaluable Draper manuscripts, upon whose resources so many historians have drawn. This reference to the Draper Collection is not meant to belittle the acquisitions of the Wisconsin Historical Society papers, which are described in the present *Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society*, edited by Alice E. Smith as a supplement to the earlier check list.

The design of this work is based upon alphabetical arrangement, with 802 groups of papers, either under the author's name or the main subject, and an index which seems adequate enough to furnish a further key to particular documents. A scanning of the entries shows a considerable amount of nineteenth- and twentieth-century historical material, with an occasional inclusion of some eighteenth-century local documents.

This check list is worth reading as a whole for the descriptive notes of the various groups, which are sufficiently elaborate and informative to reward any historian whose interests are not confined to his own im-

mediate project. Lastly, the volume is well printed and attractive in format.

RUTH LAPHAM BUTLER

*North Star Editor: A Brief Sketch of Joseph A. Wheelock and His Policies as Editor of The St. Paul Pioneer-Press.* By RICHARD B. EIDE. (New York, King's Crown Press, 1944. vii, 76 p. Portrait. \$1.00.)

This sketch of the man who for "fifty years . . . gave editorial leadership to the St. Paul Pioneer-Press and newspapers that made up its family tree" is an abstract from a larger work published in a small edition in 1939 by the same author, *The Influence of Editorship and Other Forces on the Growth of the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, 1849-1909*. It makes available much valuable information about one of the great personal journalists of his day, and about the newspaper whose influence for many years dominated the Northwest.

In the five chapters that make up the pamphlet, the author considers Wheelock as a pioneer journalist, as editor of the *St. Paul Press*, his policies on the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and the news of Wheelock's day, and briefly evaluates the editor. The author's discourse is interspersed by numerous and varied excerpts from Wheelock's editorial writings. The reader is confused at times, however, by the lack of transition from the words of the author to those of Wheelock.

M.W.B.

## Minnesota Historical Society Notes

A NEW SERIES of publications, issued under the title *Pictorial Minnesota*, has been inaugurated by the society. It consists of sets of from eight to twelve pictures provided with descriptive captions and assembled in specially printed envelopes. Sets relating to "The Indians" and to "Pioneer Buildings and Equipment" have been issued, and others are planned for future publication. The pictures, which are intended to serve as visual aids to teachers and students of Minnesota and Northwest history, may be obtained from the society for twenty-five cents a set. The project and its possible uses are discussed in another section of this magazine.

The index to volume 25 of *Minnesota History* has been published, and is now available on request to all members and others who receive the society's quarterly. Arrangements have been made for the binding of the four issues for 1944 and the index in a single volume to match earlier volumes. The difficulty of obtaining binding cloth, however, has delayed the issuing of the volume somewhat. When the work of binding is completed, members and subscribers who turn in the four unbound issues for 1944 may obtain the bound volume for seventy-five cents.

Six articles published in volumes 23 and 24 of *Minnesota History* are evaluated in volume 2 of *The United States, 1865-1900: A Survey of Current Literature*, which is edited by Curtis W. Garrison for the Hayes Foundation (Fremont, Ohio, 1944). They are Earl V. Chapin's "Early History of the Roseau Valley," Muriel B. Christison's "LeRoy S. Bufington and the Minneapolis Boom of the 1880's," Merrill E. Jarchow's "Farm Machinery of the 1860's in Minnesota," Hildegard Binder Johnson's "The Carver County German Reading Society," Margaret Snyder's "Chatfield: An Essay in Economic History," and Bertha L. Heilbron's "Walter Reed in Minnesota."

The society's committee for the preservation of historic buildings, of which Professor Laurence Schmeckebier of the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota is chairman, met in the superintendent's office on March 24. In addition to the chairman, the following members of the committee were present: Dr. Beeson, Mr. Henry N. Benson of St.

Peter, Dean Blegen, Judge Brill, Dr. J. O. Christianson, Miss Laura Furness, Miss Heilbron, Professor Roy Jones, Professor A. C. Krey, Mr. E. L. Roney of Stillwater, and Miss Ruth Thompson of the Minneapolis Public Library. Plans were made to draw up lists of historic buildings throughout Minnesota, and to collect and preserve records of such buildings in the form of photographs, descriptions, and architects' drawings. It was decided that whenever feasible, the committee will encourage the preservation of buildings that have historic significance or artistic merit. When structures have deteriorated to such a degree that restoration has become impractical, pictorial and other records will be made. To promote the work of listing historic structures, as well as of saving them for posterity, the committee plans to enlist the co-operation of county historical societies, schools, and libraries throughout the state. The chairman was instructed to prepare a form indicating information needed about each significant building. It probably will be distributed through the local historical societies.

The sum of two hundred dollars has been presented by the Minnesota Society of the Daughters of American Colonists in memory of its former state regent, Mrs. Amy E. McDonald Robertson of Minneapolis, who died in 1942. The donors designated that the fund should be used for the purchase of books on genealogy and local history that the society cannot afford to purchase through regular channels.

That the statement "First Published 1853" on the recent reprint of the Prince Society's edition of the *Voyages of Peter Esprit Radisson* is a typographical error is revealed in a recent letter from the publisher, Mr. Peter Smith, to the acting superintendent of the society. He declares that the date should read 1885, as suggested by Miss Nute in her review of the reprinted work in the December issue of this magazine (*ante*, 25: 371).

Two life members, Elmer F. Blu of Duluth and Sigurd Ueland of Minneapolis, and a sustaining member, Judge Clarence R. Magney of St. Paul, are included among the thirty-three active members who joined the society during the first quarter of 1945. The names of the thirty new annual members follow: Mrs. Margaret C. Banning of Duluth, Harold N. Bishop of Park Rapids, Mrs. Edward Brooks of St. Paul, Warren E. Burger of St. Paul, H. A. Frederickson of Windom, Mrs. Jule M. Hannaford, Jr., of White Bear Lake, Vernon Hanson of Hinsdale, Illinois, Oscar B. Jensen of St. Paul, Mollie Korgen of Duluth, Herbert Krause of Sioux Falls,

South Dakota, Einar E. Lauley of Virginia, Mrs. William S. Lindsley of Minneapolis, Albee W. Ludwig of Minneapolis, Sterling Lund of Stanchfield, Adolph Lundquist of New York Mills, Mrs. Henrik L. Matson of Avoca, Elwin More of Blue Earth, Orvis M. Nelson of San Lorenzo, California, Harlan K. Nygaard of Minneapolis, Gustaf F. Olson of Minneapolis, John P. Raattama of Nashwauk, Mrs. Richard C. Reinecke of St. Paul, Frank Robertson of Side Lake, Carl T. Schuneman of White Bear Lake, Spencer Smith of Wayzata, Charles L. Tunell of Minneapolis, Rev. John Wargelin of Minneapolis, Mrs. Frederick K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul, Graydon G. Wheeler of Minneapolis, and Henry W. Withee of Preston.

The society lost the following active members by death during the six months from October 1, 1944, to March 31, 1945: Dr. James M. Murdoch of Pittsburgh on October 8, Peter Schaefer of Ely on October 24, Clyde A. Duniway of Stanford University, California, on December 24, Roger L. Windom of Coronado Beach, Florida, on December 24, Fred W. Besette of Duluth on January 1, Floyd E. Allen of Minneapolis on January 7, Dr. Louis E. Daugherty of St. Paul on January 10, Edgar L. Mattson of Minneapolis on January 11, Samuel M. Shepard of St. Paul on January 11, Andrew D. Stephens of Minneapolis on January 14, Elbert L. Carpenter of Minneapolis on January 29, Samuel E. Turner of St. Paul on February 2, Cavour S. Langdon of Minneapolis on February 15, and Dr. Arnold Schwyzzer of St. Paul on February 19.

Mr. Beeson described "Examples of Literature Designed to Create Race Tension" in a talk presented before the College Women's Club of Minneapolis on January 28. Miss Nute spoke on Lake Superior before the South Shore Club of St. Paul on February 27 and the Minneapolis Geological Society on March 19, and she addressed the Altrusa Club of St. Paul on March 13 and the Soroptomist Club of Minneapolis on March 22 on the subject of the "History and Wild Life of Northeastern Minnesota."

In order to observe the use made of Minnesota iron in the furnaces and steel mills of Cleveland, Miss Nute visited that city from January 25 to February 5, spending much of her time in the plant of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. While there she attended a luncheon meeting of the Great Lakes Historical Society.

"'Botanizing' Minnesota in 1838-39" is the title of an article which Miss Nute contributes to the January-February issue of the *Conservation*



*Volunteer*. It deals with the travels in Minnesota and the Northwest, as a member of the Nicollet expedition, of a German botanist, Charles A. Geyer. The narrative is based in large measure on unpublished letters that Geyer wrote to an English friend from 1845 to 1847.

Mr. Hodnefield presents some suggestions about the "Classification and Arrangement of War Records" in a letter published in the *War Records Collector* for March.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Stith Thompson, who discusses the relationship of "Folklore and Minnesota History" in the present issue, is professor of English and folklore in the University of Indiana. As United States delegate, he attended meetings in 1937 of international folklore organizations at Paris and Edinburgh; he is actively affiliated with other folklore societies in America and abroad; and he is a prolific writer in the field. His interest in Minnesota folklore was stimulated by participation in the Folk Arts Conference held at the University of Minnesota in the autumn of 1944.

Miss Elizabeth Bachmann's article on "Minnesota Log Marks" is an expanded version of an earlier article on the same subject which appeared in the *Conservation Volunteer* for November-December, 1943. Under the title "The King's Broad Arrow," she contributed a general account of log marks and their use in the United States to the October, 1944, issue of *Frontiers*, a publication of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Miss Bachmann is secretary to the director of the forestry division of the Minnesota department of conservation.

Lieutenant Merrill E. Jarchow's article on "Livestock in Early Minnesota," like his discussions of the early use of farm machinery in the state and of the development of "Minnesota Agricultural Societies and Fairs" (*ante*, 22:249-269, 23:316-327, 24:287-306), is based upon an unpublished thesis dealing with the "Economic History of Minnesota Agriculture." It was prepared in the University of Minnesota, where the author received his doctoral degree in 1941. Since 1943, Lieutenant Jarchow has served as an instructor in the naval pre-flight school at Iowa City.

Dr. Edgar B. Wesley, professor of education in the University of Minnesota, contributes to the section dealing with "Minnesota History and the Schools" an evaluation of the society's recently inaugurated publication, *Pictorial Minnesota*. He served as director of a national committee which in 1944 issued a report on *American History in Schools and Colleges* (see *ante*, 25:168-170). Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, whose description of "Mayer's

Album of Minnesota Drawings" appears in the "Notes and Documents" section, is assistant editor of this magazine.

Book reviews have been contributed to this number of *Minnesota History* by Miss Helen Clapesattle, chief editor of the University of Minnesota Press and the author of *The Doctors Mayo*; Dr. Philip D. Jordan of the history faculty of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, whose writings in the field of Northwest history include numerous articles on frontier medicine; the Right Reverend James L. Connolly, a member of the society's executive council who was recently named bishop of Fall River, Massachusetts; Miss Alice Smith, curator of manuscripts for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Dr. Ruth Lapham Butler, custodian of the Ayer Collection in the Newberry Library, Chicago; and Mrs. Mary W. Berthel, editorial assistant on the society's staff.

### ACCESSIONS

An indenture dating from 1819 by which a youth was apprenticed for seven years to Jacob Spear of Braintree, Vermont, is the gift of Mrs. C. T. Spear of St. Paul. She has also presented a document of 1792 which indicates that Nathaniel Gladding of Providence sold the bounty from the Rhode Island legislature to which he was entitled for service in the Revolutionary War. To the costume collection Mrs. Spear has contributed a gray silk dress worn about 1890.

Photostatic copies of thirteen letters written by Karl Andreas Geyer, a renowned German scientist of the 1830's and 1840's who was better known in America as Charles A. Geyer, have been made for the society from the originals in the possession of the Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis. The letters, most of which are addressed to Dr. George Engelmann, are written in a delicate German script. In them Geyer reports on botanical trips in Illinois in 1842 and on his journey as a member of the expedition of Sir William Drummond Stewart up the Missouri and down the Columbia from 1843 to 1845. Although they relate largely to botanical matters, Geyer's letters contain references to John C. Frémont, Joseph N. Nicollet, the Hudson's Bay Company with its many posts and factors, and the country through which the writer passed on his travels.

A deed to eight hundred acres of the original Jonathan Carver grant of 1767, made in 1839 by William B. Peabody and by Carver's granddaugther, Betsey Harrington, has been added to the society's collection of Carver deeds by Mrs. Minnie Mott and Mrs. Grace Parker of Winona.

A scrapbook of newspaper clippings kept by Roswell P. Russell, a Minnesota pioneer of 1839, and a few letters, deeds, and receipts from the papers of his family are the gifts of his granddaughter, Miss Sarah Colbrath of Duluth. Many of the items in the scrapbook relate to the pioneer settlers of Minneapolis and St. Anthony, where Russell settled in 1847.

A letter written from St. Louis in 1847 by Nathaniel Whiston is the gift of Mr. C. C. Whiston of St. Paul. The writer describes a boat trip from New Orleans to St. Louis, mentions his search for employment in the latter city, and tells something of economic conditions in the South.

Many of the pioneer settlers of Watab are mentioned in a brief historical sketch of its vicinity during the years from 1851 to 1857, prepared by P. Lamb, a Minnesota pioneer of 1851, and presented by his son, Dr. Harold L. Lamb of Little Falls.

A filing box of papers of Charles C. Lund, covering the years from 1858 to 1876, has been presented by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. F. B. Lund of Newton Centre, Massachusetts, through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Lund, who was a lawyer, settled in St. Paul in the late 1850's, and there he was associated with Theodore French, Joseph Wheelock, and John B. Sanborn. The papers relate not only to Lund's St. Paul experiences, but to his later career in New England, where he turned to engineering and built a railroad up Mount Washington in New Hampshire, a notable feat for his day. The Minnesota papers in the Lund collection supplement in striking fashion the Joseph Wheelock Papers, another recent acquisition of the society (see *ante*, p. 67).

A manuscript volume of 736 pages, in which are listed the names and occupations of the leading American Republicans of the 1870's, has been added to the Ramsey Papers by Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul. The list was used regularly by the donor's grandfather, Governor Alexander Ramsey.

A list of subscribers for tickets for concerts given in St. Paul on May 1 and 2, 1895, by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Theodore Thomas is contained in a little manuscript volume presented by Mrs. Charles E. Scanlan of St. Paul. The names of many prominent St. Paulites who participated in the city's musical life in the 1890's appear on the list.

The late Edward C. Gale's interest in Minneapolis cultural and charitable organizations is reflected in some papers, filling a filing box and

relating to the period since about 1900, received from his estate. The papers pertain to his activities on behalf of the Art Commission of the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the anti-tuberculosis committee of the Associated Charities of Minneapolis.

Travels in St. Louis County in the neighborhood of Ely in the summer of 1907 and the spring of 1908 are described in a reminiscent article of seventeen pages received from the author, Mr. I. G. Haycraft of Kensington, Maryland. Mr. Haycraft was one of a party of twenty men who were interested in locating timber claims in northern Minnesota.

J. O. Baillif's certificate of membership in the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Association, dating from 1920, his appointment as a peace officer in the First World War, and a certificate of appreciation for his services in that conflict are among five items recently added to the Baillif Papers by Miss Matilda V. Baillif of Minneapolis (see *ante*, 14:104). She has given also an abstract of title to land in Minnesota in 1881, and a deed to land in Kentucky signed by President Andrew Johnson on October 1, 1867. Included in Miss Baillif's gift is a photograph of Matilda Pepin Baillif of Bloomington.

Seven volumes of a diary in which William and Abbie Morris recorded their daily activities at St. Cloud from 1920 to 1925 have been presented by Mr. U. G. Herrick of Minneapolis. The diarists' social and religious activities, the weather, their business interests, and their concern for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are among the subjects stressed in their entries.

A box of papers accumulated by Representative John O. Melby of Oklee as a member of the Minnesota legislature from 1933 to 1944 is the gift of his son, Mr. Arthur J. Melby of Oklee. The manuscripts deal particularly with an effort to promote a state-wide system for the continued care of patients who have been discharged from county and state sanatoria.

Memorial sketches of fifteen members of the Hennepin County Bar Association who died recently have been added to the society's collection of such sketches (see *ante*, 25:185) through the courtesy of the association's secretary, Mr. Herbert H. Drews of Minneapolis.

Examples of the letterhead stationery of various contemporary Minnesota law firms, three legal papers of the Ramsey County Bar Association,

and other items of legal interest are the gifts of Judge Kenneth G. Brill of St. Paul. He has also presented recent issues of two English newspapers — the *Manchester Guardian* for December 30, 1944, and January 19, 1945, and the *London Times* for November 25, 1944, — as well as a photograph of a group of Four Minute Men taken in St. Paul during the First World War.

Issues for September 10 and 17, 1898, of the *American Soldier* published at Manila during the Spanish-American War have been presented by Mr. Fred W. Pederson of St. Paul.

An important addition to the society's Hennepin collection is a copy of the first edition of the Belgian friar's *Nouvelle decouverte d'un tres grand pays situe dans l'Amerique*, published at Utrecht in 1697. Of the fifteen editions of this work published before 1900, the society owns six — three in French, one in Dutch, and two in English. German and Spanish editions also appeared. The society also owns first editions of Father Hennepin's other narratives of exploration in the Mississippi Valley — his *Description de la Louisiane*, published at Paris in 1683, and his *Nouveau voyage d'un pais plus grand que l'Europe*, issued at Utrecht in 1698. In addition to the first editions in French, the society has Italian, Dutch, and English versions of the *Description de la Louisiane* and a German edition of the *Nouveau voyage*.

Mr. Charles Heffelfinger of Minneapolis has presented a group of Civil War army manuals which belonged to his father, Major Christopher B. Heffelfinger of the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, who served through much of the Civil War as captain of Company D, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. They are the *Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861* (Washington, 1863. 594 p.), *Instructions for Making Quarterly Returns of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores* (Washington, 1863. 140 p.), George Patten's *Army Manual: Containing Instruction for Officers in the Preparation of Rolls, Returns and Accounts* (New York, 1861. 268 p.) and D. H. Mahan's *Treatise on Field Fortification Containing Instructions on the Methods of Laying Out, Constructing, Defending and Attacking Intrenchments* (New York, 1864. 168 p.).

A five-cent note issued by O. B. Dorman, a St. Anthony banker, in 1862 is among twenty-two pieces of fractional paper currency presented by Mrs. E. J. McDonald of Minneapolis. The note is typical of the paper money issued in small denominations during the Civil War by private

bankers and others. Included in the gift are some items of "postage currency" issued by the federal treasury.

Two beautifully embroidered children's dresses dating from about 1896 are the gifts of Mrs. George Sommers of St. Paul. One is of white wool flannel and is embroidered in colors. Mrs. S. J. Joy of North St. Paul has presented a pair of old-fashioned pantalettes and a chemise.

A beaded bag of modern Chippewa workmanship has been received from Mrs. M. C. McMillan of Stillwater. Mr. Robert Monjeau of St. Paul has presented a small beaded mesh bag that belonged to his grandmother.

A photographic copy of a painting showing the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry encamped at Camp Stone, Maryland, in the winter of 1861-62 has been presented by Miss Mary Heffelfinger of Wayzata. The launching in 1944 of the steamship "Alexander R. Nininger, Jr.," which commemorates a hero of the Second World War who was a namesake of Governor Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota, is pictured in a photograph received from Mr. A. R. Nininger of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A crayon portrait of Charles A. Towne of Duluth, a Congressman of the 1890's who later became a United States Senator, is the gift of Mrs. James R. Bennett of St. Cloud.

Genealogists will find rich and varied materials in volumes dealing with local history received since the first of the year. Elijah E. Brownell's *Rutland County, Vermont: Genealogical Gleanings* (Philadelphia, 1942. 317 p.) contains the 1810 census of the county, lists of pensioners of different wars, and lists of civil officers. The names of men of Suffolk County, England, who were fit to bear arms are given in *Able Men of Suffolk, 1638* by Charles E. Banks (Boston, 1931. 536 p.). Some Pennsylvania gravestone inscriptions and lists of church members are included in *The Church of Saint Peter in the Great Valley, 1700-1940* by Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V. Hubbard (Richmond, Virginia, 1944. 167 p.). A *Calendar of Kent County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800* (Dover, Delaware, 1944. 558 p.), *Vital Records of West Springfield, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1944. 237 p.), and *The Burlington Court Book, A Record of Quaker Jurisprudence in West New Jersey, 1680-1709* edited by E. Clay Reed and George J. Miller (Washington, D. C., 1944. 372 p.) are other valuable additions to the growing collection of source materials now made available in printed form.

Other local histories recently acquired include *Farmington Town*

*Clerks and Their Times, 1645-1940* by Mabel S. Hurlburt (Hartford, Connecticut, 1943. 404 p.); *The "Mary and John," a Story of the Founding of Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1630* by Maude P. Kuhns (Rutland, Vermont, 1943. 254 p.); *Waban, Early Days, 1681-1918* by Jane B. MacIntire (Newton Centre, Massachusetts, 1944. 294 p.); *A History of Wakefield, Massachusetts* by William E. Eaton (Wakefield, 1944. 263 p.); a *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Chautauqua County, N. Y. for 1873-4* by Hamilton Child (Syracuse, 1873. 414 p.); a *People's History of Kingston, Rondout and Vicinity* by William C. DeWitt (New Haven, Connecticut, 1943. 445 p.); two illustrated volumes on *Old Orange Houses* by Mildred P. Seese (Middletown, New York, 1941-43); *Early Catonsville and the Caton Family* by George C. Keidel (Baltimore, 1944. 132 p.); and *The Historic Past of Washington, Mason County, Kentucky* by Edna H. Best (Cynthiana, Kentucky, 1944. 118 p.).

A complete name index to the first twenty-five volumes of the *Lineage Books* of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America (Somerville, Massachusetts, 1943. 1213 p.) was received during the winter quarter. Volume 13 of the *American Genealogical Index* (Middletown, Connecticut, 1944), in which surnames from Forrister to Geies are indexed, is also now available in the society's library.

Experiences of a family that went from New Jersey to Minnesota in 1856 are recounted in "*Grandfather Said . . .*", *A Biography of Richard Ross Smith, a Pioneer* by Stelle S. Smith (Minneapolis, 1944. 43 p.). Some Minnesota descendants of a Nova Scotia family are included in *Butlers and Kinsfolk* by Elmer E. Butler (Milford, New Hampshire, 1944. 326 p.) and a few Minnesotans appear in a *History of the Tone Family* by Frank J. Tone (Niagara Falls, New York, 1944. 185 p.).

Other genealogies recently received include *A Chronicle of the Family of Edward F. Beale of Philadelphia* by Maria S. B. Chance (Haverford, Pennsylvania, 1943. 235 p.); *Carrington: a Brief Historical Sketch of the Name and Family* by Mary E. Tilley (Rougemont, North Carolina, 1943. 88 p.); *A Genealogy of the Given Family* by Alfred N. Morris (Huntington, West Virginia, 1942. 72 p.); *The Granberry Family and Allied Families* by Donald L. Jacobus (Hartford, Connecticut, 1945. 383 p.); *Hobart Family in America* by Percy H. Titus (Boston, 1943. 78 p.); *Newell Ancestry* by William M. Emery (Boston, 1944. 226 p.); *Genealogy Record of Purdy, Coffin, Noble and Spencer Families* by Ross C. Purdy (Columbus, Ohio, 1944. 46 p.); *Genealogy, the James Francis Richards Branch of a Richards Family of New England* by Arthur W. Richards (Sarasota,

Florida, 1942. 100 p.); *Todds of the St. Croix Valley* by William Todd (Mount Carmel, Connecticut, 1943. 24 p.); *Tales of the Tuckers* by Beverley R. Tucker (Richmond, Virginia, 1942. 170 p.); *The Family of Garret Conrad Van Wagnen and His Wife, Mary Welton* by Frank L. Van Wagnen (Buffalo, New York, 1942. 89 p.); *A Review of Kinship* by Howard W. Warner (Ottawa, Canada, 1943. 20 p.); *The Washingtons and Their Homes* by John W. Wayland (Staunton, Virginia, 1944. 385 p.); and *A Century of Activities of the Weis Family, 1841-1941* by William D. Weis (Hanover Center, Indiana, 1944. 11 p.).

L. F.



## News and Comment

IN A STIMULATING ESSAY ON "History as a Liberal Art," appearing in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* for January, Jacques Barzun calls to the attention of professional historians the fallacy of leaving "popularization to inexperienced hands," of exercising "little or no control over the flood of handbooks," and of devoting a minimum of "time or print to summing up, organizing, and as it were codifying for common use, the results of our most advanced explorations. In a world groping for wisdom by the light of rocket-guns, this task is not fanciful," the writer continues. "It would bear fruit. Exhortations to global thinking, scorn for traditional isolation, attacks on parochial nationalisms are vain, like all abstractions, when compared with the substantial knowledge that makes these prejudices untenable. History studied as a liberal art aims precisely at furnishing the mind with such knowledge." Professor Barzun believes that to teach the subject as a liberal art is "to act not merely as a guide on travelled roads, but to help blaze a path through the darkness ahead."

"Projects in American History and Culture" formulated by a committee of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association are described in a detailed report published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March. The committee, which was appointed as the result of a resolution adopted on April 22, 1943, held meetings in April, June, and November, 1944. Its members were Louis Pelzer, chairman, Merle Curti, E. E. Dale, Everett Dick, Paul W. Gates, Frank L. Mott, and Stanley Pargellis. In their report they stress "as subjects in particular need of investigation, those which have pertinence for our times." They believe that "it is a primary function of the historian to stand in his own time as the guardian and advocate of a candid, sensible, and balanced body of organized fact and opinion about the past," for "if the sound historian fails to supply his contemporaries with readable history that is to the point, they will go elsewhere for it, to unsound historians." Among the "Projects of High Significance and Priority" that members of the committee believe are in need of investigation are "candid surveys and appraisals of the Federal administration of the public domain," a long list of topics pertaining to "agriculture and soils erosion," conservation, intellectual history, "ethnic and minority groups," and religious history.

A second list of possible topics are grouped under the heading "Areas Untilled or Further Tillable." Mentioned are such topics as the mining industries, transportation, lumbering, cultural and social history, and "wit, humor, and folklore"—all fertile fields for study in Minnesota and the Northwest.

Many of the general problems that have long been discussed in Minnesota and, in many instances, met by the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota, and other of the state's cultural institutions are considered in the published *Proceedings* of a conference of graduate deans and librarians held at Nashville, Tennessee, in July, 1944. The findings of the conference have been edited by Philip G. Davison and A. F. Kuhlman and published in a booklet under the title *The Development of Library Resources and Graduate Work in the Cooperative University Centers of the South* (81 p.). Among the topics discussed are the collection of state archives, manuscripts, and newspapers; the relationship of genealogical collections and reference work; the advantages of microphotography; and the question, "Should the collection and use of manuscripts be regulated?" In relation to the last point, "the sentiment expressed in the discussion was definitely against codes or agreements seeking to limit the manuscript collecting activities of libraries interested and able to carry on such work."

To familiarize custodians of institutional and business archives with the "basic theories and processes of archival work," the American University of Washington, D. C., is offering a short training course on the preservation and administration of archives. It will consist of seventeen lectures to be given from June 11 to 30. Some of the laboratory work of students who take the course will be done in the National Archives.

Among the papers presented before the annual meeting of the Economic Historical Association at Princeton, New Jersey, in September, 1944, and printed in *The Tasks of Economic History* in December, is a discussion by Stanley Pargellis of "The Corporation and the Historian." Participating in the discussion that followed was Ralph Budd, president of the Burlington Lines and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society. His remarks appear in the same publication. Mr. Budd agrees with Mr. Pargellis that "in so far as imperfect knowledge of American history is due to lack of access to records, the cause should be removed."

The handbook of *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada*, published last year by the American Association for State and Local History (see *ante*, 25:403), inspires some comments on "Historical Societies' Interest in Business History" in the February *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society. The writer "suspects that there is little business material in the collections of the Fillmore County Historical Society in Minnesota, which has 'historical materials, records, relics, and household equipment.'" What is more, he finds "no definite indication that any considerable percentage of the societies or libraries, especially the smaller ones, are interested in the history of business." This, however, does not give a true picture of small historical collections, at least in Minnesota, where many of the local societies have preserved the accounts and other records of business establishments in their own vicinities. The writer for the *Bulletin* bemoans the fact that when small organizations do collect business records they place emphasis "on the pioneer, the petty-capitalist type of business man." It seems pertinent to recall that on the whole "larger mercantile, industrial and financial capitalists" have not flourished in the small communities served by local historical societies, and that the records of such business magnates would be lacking in significance for the local historian. Some of the reasons why business papers are rare even in the large historical institutions of metropolitan centers are suggested by Henrietta M. Larson in an article on "Business Men as Collectors," published in the December issue of the *Bulletin*. She finds that "among the business men who have been great collectors hardly one can be said to have been notable as a collector of business objects or records." Unfortunately, they "have apparently assumed that business records have not been worth preserving."

"Individuality and glamour can be found in any community by studying its local history" writes Dr. Edward P. Alexander of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in the *Michigan History Magazine* for January-March. His address on "Getting the Most Out of Local History," presented before a meeting of the State Historical Society of Michigan on September 22, 1944, appears as the leading article in this issue of its quarterly. After looking at historical societies throughout America with their "great variations in size, organization, function, and resources," Dr. Alexander finds it difficult, but nonetheless possible, to formulate a few "useful generalizations about historical society work." Among the observations and suggestions he makes about historical organizations are

the need for opening membership to all, for public tax support, for cooperation with one another, for interesting youth, for publicity, and for constant activity.

Under the title "Clio and the Camera," Clayton S. Ellsworth contributes to the "Teachers' Section" of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March an account of the silent slidefilm, the "most promising newcomer in the field of visual education." The writer reveals that this "continuous strip of 35mm. film averaging fifty pictures" was first developed by the Society for Visual Education, which has produced more than fifteen hundred films and distributed them at a cost of from fifty cents to two dollars. Some of the available films, as well as ways in which they may be employed by teachers, are suggested by the writer.

Some of the advantages to be derived by using museums in the teaching of history are suggested by Erna Gunther in the "Teachers' Section" of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for January. The writer lists museums in the state of Washington and describes the special fields of interest that may be exploited by the teacher. It is noteworthy that the Washington State Museum of Seattle circulates traveling exhibits which can be obtained by any school that is willing to pay the return postage.

The March issue of the *Junior Historical Journal* is devoted to articles about "How the Pioneers Lived." Included are accounts of clothes worn by the pioneers of the Pacific Northwest, "Furniture Making," early "Wagon and Carriage Makers," and some frontier delicacies. Jonathan Carver and Dr. John McLoughlin are among the subjects of sketches published in the "Biographical Number" issued in January.

"New Uses for Globes and Spherical Maps" devised and applied in the Science Museum of the Saint Paul Institute are described by its director, Louis H. Powell, in the *Geographical Review* for January. This illustrated article, like the displays that it describes, demonstrates the "great value of accepting the limitations imposed by the spherical shape of the earth by using spherical maps or globes in displays dealing with world relationships."

A detailed analysis of "Marquette's Autograph Map of the Mississippi River" is contributed by Jean Delanglez to the January number of *Mid-America*. The writer declares that this "single extant autograph document by a member of the expedition" of 1673 "expresses cartographically

what was contained in Marquette's journal, which the missionary had before him when he made the map." A second article by Father Delanglez in the same periodical tells the story of "Louis Jolliet, Early Years: 1645-1675." Attention is called to the fact that the province of Quebec "will celebrate the third centenary of the birth of Jolliet" in September.

The customs and characteristics of the *Fur Traders and Trappers of the Old West* are described by Merrill J. Mattes in a pamphlet recently published by the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association (15 p.). Among the notable illustrations in the booklet are an ideal sketch of "a trading post in the wilderness," and a reproduction of a picture by Alfred J. Miller showing Fort Laramie in 1837.

*The Western Journals of Washington Irving*, presenting a day-by-day record of a journey through the Southwest in the autumn of 1832, have been edited by John Francis McDermott and published by the University of Oklahoma Press (1944. 201 p.). Irving's *Tour of the Prairies* was based upon these journals, which are now published in annotated form for the first time. They afford vivid pictures of the communities that lined the Ohio, the lower Mississippi, and the Arkansas rivers in 1832.

Thomas Say is one of nineteen *Men of Science in America* whose careers are outlined in a recent volume by Bernard Jaffe (New York, 1944. 600 p.). As zoologist and antiquarian, Say accompanied the expedition which penetrated the Minnesota country in 1823 under the leadership of Major Stephen H. Long. One of Say's substantial contributions to science took the form of notes in William Keating's *Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of the St. Peter's River*, published in 1825 as a record of the Long expedition.

Minnesota is represented by Adolf Dehn and Wanda Gág in Carl Zigrosser's volume on *The Artist in America: Twenty-four Close-ups of Contemporary Printmakers* (New York, 1942). Biographical sketches, evaluations of the work of these Minnesotans, and examples of their art are presented in the volume.

A recent addition to the *Rivers of America* series is Stanley Vestal's *The Missouri* (New York, 1945). The opening chapters picture the river as the highway of explorers and traders — men like William Clark, Meriwether Lewis, and Stephen H. Long. The restless Sioux of the plains figure prominently in some of the later chapters.

Regional "American Legends," the heroes about which they revolve, and the places and things associated with them are pictured and described in *Life* for February 5. The "robust tales" of the American frontier retold therein are drawn from B. A. Botkin's recent *Treasury of American Folklore*. They relate to Mike Fink, keelboatman on the Mississippi and the Ohio; Blackbeard, or Edward Teach, North Carolina pirate; Davy Crockett, fabulous hunter; John Henry, railroad section hand; Jonathan Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed; Joe Hill, hero of the labor movement; Judge Roy Bean of Texas; and Paul Bunyan, gigantic lumberjack. Paul and his blue ox, Babe, are pictured in color on a two-page spread that shows the enormous concrete figures erected at Bemidji.

Vernon H. Jensen devotes one chapter of his recent volume on *Lumber and Labor* to "The Great Lakes Region" and the discussion of the lumbering era in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota about the turn of the century (New York, 1945. 314 p.). The volume is one of a series dealing with *Labor in Twentieth Century America*. The conditions under which the Midwest loggers and lumberjacks worked are vividly described by the author of the present volume.

An economic study of *The Northwest in Two Wars* by Paul W. McCracken has been published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (1944. 25 p.). Charts depicting bank deposits, department store sales, the production of farm products, and similar trends from 1915 to 1943 make the booklet a convenient and useful guide for the student of recent economic history.

To guide and advise its national historian, Thomas M. Owen, Jr., in the preparation of a new history of the American Legion, the organization has appointed a commission consisting of Marquis James, Allan Nevins, Kenneth Roberts, James Street, and Colonel Karl Detzer.

A survey of "The Norwegian Lutheran Academies," contributed by B. H. Narveson to volume 14 of the Norwegian-American Historical Association's *Studies and Records* (Northfield, 1944), reveals that more than twenty such institutions were established in Minnesota. A list of academies that follows the article names schools founded from 1869 to 1921 at Minneapolis, Northfield, Red Wing, Willmar, Albert Lea, Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Glenwood, Mankato, Rushford, and other communities in Minnesota. An interesting report on the little academy at Holden in Goodhue County, prepared in 1869 by its founder, the Reverend B. J.

Muus, is published in full. Mr. Narveson's article is a significant contribution to the history of education in Minnesota and the Northwest. Those who know the romantic story of Ole Bull's venture in colonization at Oleana in Potter County, Pennsylvania, will enjoy reading Theodore C. Blegen's "The Ballad of Oleana: A Verse Translation." The original Norwegian version of this emigrant ballad, with a prose translation, was published earlier in the volume of *Norwegian Emigrant Songs and Ballads* prepared by Dr. Blegen in collaboration with Martin B. Ruud.

Announcement that a Swedish museum established under the auspices of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford, Illinois, was opened in that city on December 1, 1944, is made in the *Bulletin* of the American Institute of Swedish Arts, Literature and Science of Minneapolis for January. Therein the Rockford museum and the activities of the Swedish Historical Society are described by Herman G. Nelson. "The Swedish museum in Rockford is evidence that it does not require a large amount of money to start," writes Mr. Nelson. He records that about two thousand people attended the opening of the Rockford museum, where several thousand items were on display. Under the title "On to the Promised Land," a chapter from the autobiography of the late Adolph O. Eberhart, a former governor of Minnesota, appears in the same issue of the *Bulletin*. It includes also Peter P. Quist's "Recollections from My School Days at St. Ansgar's Academy," in which a Swedish pioneer of 1865 tells of attending the Swedish Lutheran school at East Union. In 1876 it was removed to St. Peter and given the name of Gustavus Adolphus College.

The Bureau for Intercultural Education has published a useful compilation by Joseph S. Roucek entitled *American Slavs: A Bibliography* (1944. 49 p.). Listed therein are books, pamphlets, and articles, including fiction and children's books, relating to the Bulgarians, the Czechoslovaks, the Poles, the Russians, the Ukrainians, and the Yugoslavs in America. Items of Minnesota interest in the Czechoslovak section include several articles by Esther Jerabek, a member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Two of her articles were published in *Minnesota History*.

"The Old Northwest states of Wisconsin and Minnesota led the way in the enactment of appropriate legislation" providing for soldier suffrage during the Civil War, according to Oscar O. Winther, the author of an

article on "The Soldier Vote in the Election of 1864" published in *New York History* for October, 1944. A general survey of the legislation pertaining to this problem passed by various states of the North is provided by Mr. Winther. In the same issue, William M. Burcher records the "History of Soldier Voting in the State of New York," reviewing the subject from the Civil War era to 1944.

The New York State Association of County Historians, composed of all county and city historians and all town and village historians who are recommended for membership by their county historians, was organized at Albany early in October. It begins its activities with a membership of some eighty local historians. The association was founded for the purpose of "encouraging the collection and preservation of records of all kinds; working with the State Historian to complete an index of historical source materials in the state; aiding research and publication relating to local history; cooperating with public officers in the subdivision of the state in carrying out their duties." An article defining the status and functions of "The Local Historian in New York" by Albert B. Corey, the state historian, appears in the January number of *New York History*.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Historical Society of Berks County, Pennsylvania, is fittingly commemorated in the *Historical Review of Berks County* for January. The issue includes articles on "Presidents and Pioneers of the Historical Society" by George M. Jones, on the society's collections by Mary Dives Impink, and on its library and its publications by George E. Pettengill. Each of the articles is appropriately illustrated; a picture of the society's attractive building at Reading appears as a frontispiece. Among the subjects of public lectures announced by the society for the winter and spring of 1945 are "Maps of Berks County" by Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, January 12; "The Theatre in Reading" by Paul E. Glase, February 9; and "The Amazing Pennsylvania Dutch Language" by Dr. J. William Frey, April 13.

The Charles Schreiner Company of Kerrville, Texas, is the subject of *The Story of a Country Store* as related by J. Evetts Haley and published in attractive format by the Texas State Historical Association (Austin, 1944. 73 p.). The slender volume is a contribution both to social and economic history of the Southwest, for it is based upon the records of a business that had its origin in 1869, as well as upon con-



temporary newspapers and interviews with pioneers. "Customers' Accounts" are used to illustrate the tastes and the needs of the Texas frontiersmen, and other sources are drawn upon to produce pictures of the merchants and customers who frequented the store. The book might well serve as a model for a study of a northern firm.

Mr. Howard H. Peckham, formerly curator of manuscripts for the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, has been named to succeed the late Christopher B. Coleman as director of the Indiana Historical Bureau and secretary of the Indiana Historical Society.

*Some Things about the State Historical Museum* is the title of a little guidebook issued by the Michigan Historical Commission as number 18 of its *Bulletins* (Lansing, 1944. 48 p.). The most extensive sections of the booklet are devoted to descriptions and pictorial records of the commission's Indian, archaeological, and lamp collections.

Stories about "Market Hunting in Northern Iowa," as recalled by Richard Harker of Spirit Lake, have been recorded by Jack W. Musgrove and published in the *Annals of Iowa* for January. Many of the tales of commercial hunting after 1881 included in the present narrative are localized in Minnesota. Heron Lake was one of Harker's earliest fields of operation. Thence, he recalls, "we would haul our ducks to Lakefield, Minnesota." His employer "shipped most of his birds to Chicago and New York" from Lakefield. "Sometimes the New York and Chicago people used to come there and buy the game, pack it and ship it themselves." Methods used by commercial hunters in building huge freezers in which to store game are described in some detail. Harker and his brothers built such a "cooler" in Kandiyohi County, where they shot vast quantities of game on Green Lake. How the commercial hunters got into difficulties with the Minnesota game wardens after the state began to require game licenses in the 1890's is among the incidents recalled by Harker.

Characteristic celebrations staged in early Iowa to mark New Year's Day, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, and Memorial Day are described in a lengthy narrative by William J. Petersen on "Legal Holidays in Iowa" appearing in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for January. Since this article deals with the first six months of the year only, it may be surmised that a second installment will follow in a later issue.

Descriptions of the customary social calls, church services, special publications, and festivities that marked New Year's Day on the frontier are included in the account. Iowa observances of all the holidays mentioned were typical of practices throughout the Midwest.

A chapter in twentieth-century communication history is provided by J. A. Swisher in the January *Palimpsest*, where he writes of "Air Mail in the Twenties" in Iowa. The writer records that many of the early air-mail routes passed over Iowa, and others stopped within the state. The first plane to carry mail from Chicago to Omaha, for example, stopped at Iowa City in January, 1920. To the same issue of the *Palimpsest*, Philip D. Jordan contributes an account of some of the pioneer daguerreotypists who flourished in Iowa in the 1850's.

*A History of Seventy-five Years of Service by the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society*, written for its seventy-fifth annual meeting by H. J. Rahmlow, consists of many short and disjointed notes about fruit growing in Wisconsin (Madison, 1943). From it, however, can be gleaned many items of interest, particularly about the varieties of apples developed in the Northwest. There are also brief histories of such organizations as the Wisconsin association of beekeepers, cranberry growers, and fruit growers.

Among the booklets published recently by the Wisconsin Folklore Society under the editorship of Charles E. Brown are legends of *Wina-bozho, Hero-God of the Indians of the Old Northwest* (1944), a collection of *Bear Tales* (1944), and two additions to the recorded lore of Paul Bunyan. *Johnny Inkslinger* (1944) makes available three pages of "deacon seat tales" that are credited to "Bunyan's industrious camp clerk," and *Paul Bunyan Classics* (1945) consists of "authentic original stories told in the old time logging camps of the Wisconsin pineries."

*Forty-seven Wisconsin Stories* of spectacular personalities and events have been recorded by Mary Gates Muggah and Paul H. Raihle and published as a small volume (Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, 1944. 158 p.). Among the unique characters whose exploits are sketched are Dr. William Beaumont, Carl Schurz, Hans Christian Heg, Increase A. Lapham, the Ringling brothers, Houdini, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Oliver H. Kelley, D. A. Robertson, Ignatius Donnelly, and James Manahan are among the Minnesotans who figure in Usher L. Bur-

dick's *History of the Farmers' Political Action in North Dakota* (Baltimore, 1944. 140 p.). Chapters on "The Rise of the Grange," on the Farmers' Alliance, on "The Rise of the Populists," on the Nonpartisan League, and on the Farmers' Union have almost as much interest for Minnesota readers as for those in North Dakota. Students of the co-operative movement in the Northwest, as well as those who are concerned with the Progressive movement in general, will find this little book of value.

An excellent guide for the tourist who visits Mackinac Island is provided by George N. Fuller in an article on "Michilimackinac" which appears in the March issue of the *Beaver*. The writer not only outlines the history of this significant site in the opening of the Northwest, but he describes the many fascinating structures, both originals and restorations, that are still to be seen on the island. The many associations that draw tourists to the American Fur Company headquarters, the Indian agency building, the Biddle and Early houses, the Catholic and Protestant churches, and the old fort are brought out by the author. Among the excellent illustrations that appear with the article is a dramatic photograph of old Fort Mackinac. Minnesotans will be particularly attracted by a second article in this issue of the *Beaver* which presents Robert Campbell's narrative of a journey through their state in 1832 and 1833. The trip was made for the purpose of obtaining "Sheep for Red River" in Ohio and Missouri. Although the account is extracted from "Campbell's unpublished autobiography," it has appeared earlier in Mid-western historical publications. Early pictures of Fort Snelling and of Pembina are among the illustrations appearing with the narrative.

"The Fur Trade and the Selkirk Settlement" is the title of one chapter in Professor A. L. Burt's recent textbook on *The Romance of Canada* (Toronto, 1944). The activities in the Canadian Northwest of the Hudson's Bay and North West companies figure prominently in the narrative, which includes the story of the settlements on the lower Red River and Lake Winnipeg. An earlier chapter on "The Exploration of the Interior" retells the stories of such explorers as Radisson and Groseiliers and the Vérendryes.

"Pioneer Trips" of the Grey Nuns who went from Montreal to the St. Boniface mission in the Red River settlements in 1844 are described by Sister Mary Murphy in the February number of *Les Cloches de*

*Saint-Boniface*. The trip described in this issue was made by canoe over the voyageurs' route across Lake Superior and by way of the border waters to Lake Winnipeg and the Red River.

### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

An *Economic Analysis of the State of Minnesota*, consisting of three numbered volumes (83, 303, 23 p.) and a bulky volume of "Exhibits," has been issued in the form of a *Report* to the Minnesota Resources Commission by the J. G. White Engineering Corporation (New York, 1945). The commission, which was instructed by the Governor in May, 1944, to make a "study of the broad, underlying, basic factors having to do with the economic conditions and trends which affect the public welfare of the people of Minnesota," entered into a contract with the corporation to conduct an investigation and submit a report. The first volume of the published *Report* is devoted largely to considerations of the economic development of the iron ore industry, quarrying, forestry, manufacturing, and agriculture in the state, and to "Economic Development in Government." In volume 2 the "factual data . . . considered significant in arriving at the findings and conclusions" offered in volume 1 are presented; and volume 3 contains "recommendations for remedial action." The "Exhibits" illustrate the findings presented in volume 2. A pamphlet in which *An Interpretation of the Report* is made available has been published by the commission (65 p.). Students of economic history in general, as well as those who are concerned with individual industries studied, will find the *Report* of interest and value.

Some useful information about "Wild Rice in Minnesota" is presented by John B. Moyle in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* for July, 1944. The article also has been published as a separate. "Harvesting and Processing" the wild rice crop both by primitive and by modern methods are described in considerable detail. Some figures on the extent and value of the annual crop in Minnesota also are given. An article about the harvesting and conserving of wild rice or "Manomin — Minnesota's Native Cereal" appears in the *Conservation Volunteer* for January-February.

Under the title "Sunday-go-to-Meeting Houses," Laurence E. Schmeckebier surveys, in the issues of *Northwest Life* for January and February, the development of church architecture in Minnesota from the frontier

period to the present. From the humble log chapels in which services were conducted by such Catholic pioneers as Fathers Guignas and Galtier to pretentious modern structures designed by architects of international repute like E. L. Masqueray and Ralph Adams Cram, the writer reviews the story of Minnesota's houses of worship. Among the illuminating pictures that supplement the text are photographs showing the first three structures that served as cathedrals of St. Paul. Professor Schmeckebeier, who is head of the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota, is chairman of the Minnesota Historical Society's committee for the preservation of historic buildings. In the latter capacity he is engaged in conducting a survey of structures of historic and architectural significance throughout the state.

The February issue of the *Journal-Lancet* is a seventy-fifth anniversary issue which takes account of medical progress in various fields since the periodical was founded in 1870. Special recognition is given to the anniversary by Dr. Harold S. Diehl in an article on "Seventy-five Years of Medical Journalism in the Northwest." He recalls the founding of the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal* by Dr. Alexander J. Stone in the spring of 1870, and suggests some of the changes that have taken place in the long period of "uninterrupted medical journalism" that followed.

The career of Dr. William S. Cox, who settled in St. Paul in 1856 and remained there until his death in 1874, is outlined by Dr. John M. Armstrong in the January issue of *Minnesota Medicine*, which includes this biographical sketch in its "History of Medicine in Minnesota." Emphasis is placed upon Cox's early career as a naval officer. The writer notes that whereas Cox studied medicine and practiced in Pennsylvania, he did not follow his profession in Minnesota. The history of Minnesota medicine is continued in the February and March issues of *Minnesota Medicine* with installments of a "History of Medicine in Goodhue County."

Business historians will be interested in the "Golden Anniversary Edition" of the *Butler Miner*, issued in May, 1944, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the firm of Butler Brothers (44 p.). An account of the firm's "Adventures in Construction," which included the building of the Minnesota Capitol, the St. Paul Public Library, and the North Dakota Capitol, precedes the review of its

mining operations on the Minnesota iron ranges. Much information about mining methods and laboratory research, as well as the records of individual mines, are presented both in words and in pictures. Also included are brief biographical sketches of the six Butler brothers.

Judge William E. Scott of Two Harbors is the author of an article on "Fishing in Lake Superior" which appears in three installments in the *Two Harbors Chronicle and Times* from January 25 to February 8. Much of the material included was gathered in interviews with commercial fishermen of long experience on the North Shore. Judge Scott presents some interesting items of "Northshore Lore" in the *Chronicle and Times* for January 11 and 18. Appearing in the same paper from February 15 to March 1 are some "Recollections of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad," recorded by the late William A. McGonagle in a narrative preserved among the files of the Lake County Historical Society.

A page of unusual pictures of "Indians of the Early Days" on the North Shore of Lake Superior is included in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for January 21. Among them are a view of a North Shore Indian village of 1870, and several pictures of typical Chippewa dwellings. An "Indian payment at Grand Portage in 1870" is among the scenes pictured. Portraits of some of the traders in the Lake Superior country, including Vincent Roy, are reproduced.

Minnesota Territory is the subject of the installment published in the January issue of the *American Philatelist* of a narrative by Carroll Chase and Richard McP. Cabeen dealing with "The First Hundred Years of United States Territorial Postmarks, 1787-1887." A brief sketch of regional history and of the organization of the territory is followed by a list of territorial post offices, compiled with the assistance of Mr. Jefferson Jones of Hopkins. Maps depicting the territory and locating post offices in its southeastern section accompany the account. Historians and geographers as well as philatelists will find this list of Minnesota place names of interest and value.

### WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

The list of "War Records Projects and Activities in the States and Territories" published in the *War Records Collector* for March, 1944, is revised and brought up to date in the January number. Some of the problems that will be encountered in "Writing the History of Ohio in

World War II" are discussed by James H. Radabaugh in the February issue. Suggestions for building up war records collections are offered in the March number by Rose Demorest of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, who discusses "The Large Public Library's Interest in War Records," and by Mrs. Ruth O. Jeffreys of the Braswell Memorial Library of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, who describes "The Small Public Library's Interest in War Records." The March issue also publishes a communication in which some suggestions about the "Classification and Arrangement of War Records" are offered by Jacob Hodnefield of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. A note on the progress of war records work at Duluth appears in the February *Collector*.

The work accomplished in 1944 by the Ohio War History Commission, which was established in 1942 as a state agency, is the subject of a report in the January issue of its publication, *Communiqué*. War history projects in Ohio colleges and universities are described in the February number.

The program and objectives of the Virginia World War II History Commission are described in some detail by the director, Lester J. Cappon, in the *News Letter* of the University of Virginia for March 15. The statement includes tentative plans for the publication of a volume or a series of volumes about Virginia's role in the Second World War.

The first number of the Liège, Belgium, edition of the *Stars and Stripes*, published on January 20, 1945, has been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Mr. Arthur A. Van Dyke of St. Paul. This edition of the American Army publication was "established to serve expressly the men at the northern end of the western front." Other editions of the same paper represented in the society's collection of material relating to the Second World War were published at London, Paris, and Rome. The society also has acquired copies of the *United States Dispatch*, a paper issued at Teheran by and for the Persian Gulf Command.

The ration boards of Duluth, Fairmont, Little Falls, and Rochester are among two hundred boards in the United States designated by the OPA as "record boards," the files of which are to be permanently preserved after the war. Under instructions from the OPA, a "record board is to preserve applications, records of certificates issued, registrations (R301, etc.), minutes of meetings, and other data created or received by it, so that its files will reflect the activity of that board as fully as possible

from the date of its first operations." Arrangements have been made, when the business of the boards has been concluded, to deposit the archives of the Fairmont and Little Falls boards with the Minnesota Historical Society, those of the Duluth board in the Duluth Public Library, and those of the Rochester board with the University of Minnesota.

Twenty-six letters written by soldiers serving in the Second World War have been added to the Minnesota Historical Society's collections by the *Minneapolis Star Journal*, to which the letters are addressed. The *St. Paul Dispatch* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* are turning over to the society for permanent preservation official news releases and articles prepared by war correspondents in the field.

Letters, reports, pamphlets, and other materials relating to Minneapolis in the Second World War which have accumulated in the office of the mayor of that city as well as in the office of the Minneapolis War History Committee have been turned over to the Minnesota Historical Society by the chairman of the committee, Mr. Joseph W. Zalusky.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

An act passed by the Minnesota legislature during the 1945 session increases the amounts that county boards may appropriate for historical work from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in counties with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants, from \$2,000 to \$3,000 where the population is from 25,000 to 75,000, and from \$3,000 to \$5,000 in counties having more than 75,000 people. The act, which is chapter 510 of the *Laws* of 1945, amends a law of 1929. Under the earlier law, fourteen local historical societies were receiving support from their county boards in 1944. The amounts appropriated ranged from \$50 in Lake County to \$3,000 in Hennepin County. Counties now have an opportunity to give their historical societies support adequate for the proper maintenance of their museum work and other activities, and it is hoped that a large number of local governmental units will take advantage of the new law.

Meager space in a basement room of the Lake City Library sharply limits the display facilities available to the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society, which has its headquarters in the Wabasha County community. Visitors will carry away only a vague impression of the functions and activities of the local historical group. For, aside from a few framed pictures, the only objects now displayed by the society are crowded into two



floor cases. Undaunted, however, this regional organization has pursued its collecting activities in preparation for the day when adequate museum space will be at its disposal. In the meantime, most of the collections, including some of real importance, are stored in a closet adjoining the display room, where they may be seen only by special arrangement with the society's officers.

Of necessity, most of the objects on display are small. In character they are extremely varied. A caster set, a fluting iron, a butter mold, a waffle iron, and a sausage machine reflect the domestic activities of the Lake Pepin Valley pioneers. There are some firearms of early types, a foot warmer that burned charcoal, and a few frontier tools, including a broad ax. A framed lithograph of Lake City in 1867 hangs above the cases.

In reserve are not only scores of significant items for future museum displays, but manuscripts, newspaper files, photographs, and similar materials that will be of unmeasured value to the future historian of the Lake Pepin region. There is, for example, a diary kept by George Hill, a pioneer who stepped off a steamboat at Read's Landing in 1857, took up land near Zumbro Falls, farmed there for many years, and eventually retired and removed to Lake City, where he died in 1892. His record, which fills twenty-seven closely written volumes, affords an excellent picture of farm life in southeastern Minnesota in the state's formative period. A manuscript record of a very different kind is the register, for the years from 1863 to 1867, of the Ellsworth House, a Lake City hotel. The importance of the river in the community's early development is indicated by the fact that the register includes not only the names of guests, but records of boats arriving at the Lake City landing.

Unusual, as well as significant, are the birth, baptismal, and marriage certificates of several Pennsylvania Germans, who are among the ancestors of a resident of Lake City, Mr. Charles Romick. Through his interest, the records have been deposited with the local historical society. The earliest document in the group is the baptismal certificate of Jacob Orth, who was born in Derry Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1798. Other documents record the births of Peter Orth in 1836 and of various members of the Müller family in the early 1800's. The genealogical value of these records is obvious. They are, however, interesting from several other angles. They reflect, for example, the westward movement, and the transfer of culture and of social customs from Europe to the American East and thence to the Midwest. And they are significant, also, as examples of a folk art that is fast disappearing, for the forms on which the records are

carefully written in German are elaborately colored by hand or lithographed by early Pennsylvania printers. The names of the latter, whose shops were located in such places as Harrisburg, Reading, and Allentown, appear in the imprints on the forms. The student of early American printing, as well as one interested in art and design, will find this collection worth investigating.

Files of several Lake City newspapers — the *Graphic*, the *Graphic Sentinel*, the *Leader*, and the *Republican* — for the years from 1865 to the early 1900's have been accumulated by the Lake Pepin Valley group. It has an extensive picture collection, including many small portraits in photograph albums and some good views of Lake City. A large map of Minnesota, published by Power and Thornton at Minneapolis in 1867, is bordered with advertisements of Wabasha County firms and displays a local business directory. Mention should be made also of some archives of the Lake City council which have been turned over to the society.

The Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society is regional in its scope. It stops neither at county nor at state lines, for it hopes in time to enlist the co-operation of all the communities on both the Minnesota and the Wisconsin shores of Lake Pepin. At the same time it does not look to a county for support, but draws slender funds from the annual dues of some fifty members. The promotion of the society's museum is the special province of Mr. Francis H. Kemp of Lake City, vice-president of the organization.

B. L. H.

About two hundred people attended the annual meeting of the Thunder Bay Historical Society at Fort William on January 10. The chief feature of the program was an address by Professor Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario, who discussed the Great Lakes and their significance in Canadian and American history. Mr. Erle Smith was elected president of the society, succeeding Mr. J. P. Bertrand, president of the organization during the past four years.

Under the auspices of the Anoka County Historical Society, a showing of the film "Minnesota Document" was arranged at Anoka on January 23. The history of Champlin was the subject of comment by Mrs. Arthur Reed and Mrs. Paul Heard at a meeting of the society held at Anoka on March 12.

Announcement that the county commissioners have appropriated three hundred dollars for the maintenance of the Chippewa County Historical

Society's museum was made at a meeting of the organization at Montevideo on March 20. The museum, which is housed in a log cabin, has been closed for three years. A feature of the program presented at the society's March meeting was a showing of "Minnesota Document."

To defray the expenses involved in maintaining its museum, the Fillmore County Historical Society received an appropriation of five hundred dollars from the county commissioners when they met in February. The home of the late Mrs. John C. Mills became the property of the society under the terms of her will, and a museum has been established in the house (see *ante*, p. 89). The society was incorporated in April, 1944.

"The Minnesota Youth Correction Act" was explained by Michael J. Dillon to members of the Hennepin County Historical Society at the organization's annual meeting, which was held in Minneapolis on January 24. Reports were presented by the officers of the society, including Miss Ruth Thompson, secretary, and Edward A. Blomfield, director of the museum. All officers were re-elected for the coming year. They include, in addition to Miss Thompson, Mr. Robert E. Scott, president, Mr. Dana Frear, vice-president, and Mr. Leland F. Leland, treasurer. At a meeting of the society held on March 14, Mr. K. A. Kirkpatrick spoke on "Hennepin County Agent Work." The society's organization and growth were described by Mr. Blomfield before meetings of the Lynnhurst Study Club on March 27 and the Minneapolis Men's Professional Club on April 12.

Mr. Val E. Kasperek, historian of the Morrison County Historical Society, reviewed some of the events connected with the early history of Little Falls and its vicinity before a town meeting held at Little Falls on February 26. He is the author of a sketch, appearing in the *Little Falls Herald* for March 2, of the Morrison County ghost town of Swan River.

Reporting to the board of directors of the Nicollet County Historical Society at a quarterly meeting on January 29, Mrs. M. E. Stone announced that its museum has assembled a total of 559 articles of local historical interest. More than four hundred visitors have viewed the museum displays in recent months. Mrs. Stone is curator of the society's museum.

The *Bulletin* of the Nobles County Historical Society for January presents a sketch of "Worthington Seventy Five Years Ago" by George Thornton. Notes on recent accessions and activities and a list of the society's life members occupy the remainder of the issue. It announces that

the county has been divided into seven districts, each of which has been placed under the supervision of a director of the society. Each director has been instructed to "appoint a Corresponding Secretary in each township and village in his district, and be responsible for the promotion of the interests of the Society therein." The secretaries will undertake to collect objects for the society's museum, to obtain new members, and to record material for the society's files or for publication in its *Bulletin*.

A movement is under way at Faribault for the purchase by the Better Faribault Association of a house built in 1852 by the city's founder, Alexander Faribault. Under consideration are not only the permanent preservation of the house, but its use by the Rice County Historical Society for museum purposes.

The sum of a thousand dollars for the maintenance of the Roseau County Historical Society's museum was appropriated by the county board early this year. The salary of the curator, Mr. P. O. Fryklund, will be paid from this fund. The society is housed in a modern municipal building at Roseau. An extensive collection of fossils, ornithological specimens, and the like assembled by Mr. Fryklund and long displayed in the museum, has been purchased by the society. Funds for the purchase of the collection are being raised by public subscription. The decision to purchase the collection was made at a special meeting of the society held on January 19.

As the fifth of a series of articles on "Our Cultural Institutions," the *Duluth News-Tribune* presents, in its issue for February 18, an illustrated account of the St. Louis County Historical Society by Corah L. Colbrath, its secretary. She reviews the history of the organization, which was founded in 1922, describes some of its more important collections, and tells how they are utilized by tourists and students. Among the illustrations are a picture of Tweed Hall in Duluth, where the society is housed, and a view of one of the museum rooms.

Reports were presented and officers elected at the annual meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on January 8. The newly elected officers include R. T. Barry, president, D. S. Cummings, vice-president, H. A. Panzram, secretary, and Arthur Brisbane, treasurer.

Three successful meetings of the Washington County Historical Society were held at Stillwater in the first quarter of 1945. The history of Gray Cloud Island was the subject discussed by Miss Frances Parker of

Newport before a meeting held on January 20. On February 24 Miss Flora McGuire reviewed the story of the Twin Lake School in May Township, revealing that the school district was organized in 1873 and that a school-house was built in the following year at a cost of a thousand dollars. Extracts from Miss McGuire's paper appear in the *Stillwater Weekly Gazette* for March 1. Mr. William Benitt spoke on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals before a public meeting of the society held on March 22.

### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

By the end of March the articles contributed to the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* by the Reverend Charles E. McColley had reached an impressive total, for the issue of March 29 carries the fifty-seventh in his series of narratives of pioneer life in southern Minnesota. It deals with threshing on a frontier farm. Some of the agricultural implements and machinery used during Mr. McColley's youth are described in the issue for March 22.

*The Church of the Holy Trinity of New Ulm, Minn.: A Record of 75 Years of Achievement* is the title of a substantial illustrated volume published to commemorate the diamond jubilee of this Catholic congregation (1944. 250 p.). The story of the establishment of the parish by the Reverend Alexander Berghold, biographical sketches of the pastors who succeeded him, descriptions of the various structures erected by the parish, and accounts of the schools, hospitals, and the like that are connected with the parish are presented in great detail. There is little, however, about the community in which these institutions have developed. Mention should perhaps be made of a brief review of the founding of New Ulm and of two reminiscent narratives of the Sioux Outbreak by survivors.

The fact that "New Ulm Knew Steamboat Days" is brought out in an article in the *New Ulm Review* for March 15, which recalls the activities of the New Ulm Transportation Company, organized in the spring of 1869. Among the boats that plied the waters of the Minnesota, carrying freight and passengers to and from New Ulm, was the "Otter," which was owned by Captain Jacob Hindermann. Some of its trips are described in the present article, as are the operations of pleasure launches used in a later period.

A recent contribution to the study of Minnesota's nationality groups is John Stefan's article on "The Romanians in So. St. Paul, Minn.," which appears in the *New Pioneer* of Cleveland for January. As a background

for the story of the Romanians of this Minnesota community, the writer reviews the development of the community and its chief industry, which centers in the St. Paul Union Stock Yards. He gives prominence to one large packing plant "because the first Romanian immigrants found employment and good treatment" there and it still employs many Romanians. From a nucleus of twelve in 1904, according to Mr. Stefan, the Romanian group has grown into a substantial community, which continues its industrial association with the packing plants. The social customs, organizations, clubs, and churches of the group are singled out for special discussion. One feature of the narrative that will not be overlooked by students of settlement is the lists of names of Romanians who have lived in South St. Paul at one time or another. The "traditional boarding houses" in which most of the Romanian newcomers lived before their families joined them in the New World also are described.

Articles published in the monthly issues of *St. Michaels Bulletin* from September, 1943, to June, 1944, review the history of a Catholic parish located in the Riverview district of St. Paul. The opening installment commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church, which was founded in West St. Paul in 1868.

Timely "Minnesota Memories" are attractively presented by Miss Ruth Thompson of the Minneapolis Public Library in a column that has appeared on the editorial page of the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* every Monday since January 1. Appropriately, the series opens with an account of some frontier Minnesota New Year's celebrations. Among the subjects of later contributions are early Minneapolis directories, January 15; Lincoln and Minnesota, February 12; musical organizations and concerts in pioneer Minneapolis, March 5; and early Easter parades, March 26.

"Historical Land-Marks" in the record of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis are listed in a booklet issued to commemorate the congregation's diamond jubilee in December, 1944. The chronological list opens with the date December 6, 1869, when the congregation was organized by the Reverend N. T. Ylvisaker.

Various phases of the logging industry are touched upon in recent issues of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* in its column entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods." Changes in the specifications defined for profitable timber are described in the column published on January 10. The "lessened size of the timber accepted in the market" is indicated by

the fact that whereas in the early days of the industry "timber averaged about ten logs to the thousand feet of lumber," in later years the size "dropped until about 30 logs were required to make a thousand feet." The many shingle mills that operated in Itasca County from 1900 to 1925 are described in the column for February 14, which notes that the mills utilized the "abundant supplies of white cedar available in almost every part of the county." A pioneer logger, Mr. George E. Scott of Mud Lake, is the subject of a sketch published on January 31.

The organization of a historical society in the grade school at Stewart in McLeod County is announced in the *Stewart Tribune* for February 22. The pupils plan to survey the community for articles of historic value that can be displayed in a school museum.

The Ladies' Floral Club of Austin, which was organized on March 16, 1869, marked its seventy-fifth anniversary at a meeting held at Austin on October 9, 1944. Accounts of the organization and meeting of the club, which was the earliest women's club established in the state, of its twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries, and of its more recent activities were presented by Mrs. H. W. Hurlbut, who drew much of her information from manuscript records and newspaper reports.

Under the title "Austin School History Traced from Log Structure in 1855," the development of Austin's educational system is reviewed by Josephine Kremer in the *Austin Daily Herald* for February 15. Emphasis is placed upon the buildings used by the city's school, from the log house of 1855 to the modern high school erected in 1921.

Some aspects of pioneer social life are described by Mark E. Robey in a series of sketches of the "Early History of Sandstone and Vicinity" that have been appearing in the *Pine County Courier* of Sandstone since December 7. The text of an "ordinance relative to vagrants" passed by the village council in 1889 is given in the installment for December 21.

A sketch of the Grove Lake School in Pope County, which was organized in 1866 and occupied its first building three years later, appears in the *Pope County Tribune* for January 4. Included are a chronological list of teachers, a list of clerks of the school district, and notes on some of the pupils who have attained a degree of prominence.

Two series of articles exploiting spectacular incidents in St. Paul's past have been appearing in the *St. Paul Shopper*. The first, by Horace N.

Buggy, bears the general title "Down Memory Lane," and includes accounts of the Grand Opera House fire of 1889, in the issue of January 24; of the building of the Aberdeen Hotel, in the number for February 7; and of some early bicycle races between St. Paul and Minneapolis teams, in the issue for February 21. Under the heading "Forgotten Facts about St. Paul," Mark Fitzpatrick tells of the wives of some prominent St. Paul pioneers on February 14, and he recalls some of the city's early streets on March 28.



